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OFFICIAL REPORT

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OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2012

COMPRISING PERIOD
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24 January 2011

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 24 January 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Southern Sudan Referendum

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I am pleased to inform the House that polling in the southern Sudan referendum took place between 9 and 15 January 2011. Over 3 million southern Sudanese cast their votes in this historic referendum to decide their future, far exceeding the required 60% turnout figure. Many queued for hours at polling centres, waiting patiently and calmly for the opportunity to express their view.

The successful completion of the referendum is a momentous step towards the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement signed between the north and south in 2005. Observers from the United Kingdom and many other countries have been on the ground monitoring the process closely. This week domestic and international observers have made it clear that the process to date has been conducted in a credible manner. This is a truly remarkable achievement and I welcome the observers' assessments, including the EU observation mission's preliminary statement of 17 January that the referendum had met international standards and been free and fair. We await the formal announcement of the result, currently due on 7 or 14 February.

I commend the enormous efforts made over the last few months to prepare for the referendum by the political leadership in Khartoum and Juba, and the work done by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC). I also commend the logistical support for voting inside Sudan provided by the United Nations Mission to Sudan (UNMIS) and the arrangements made for out-of-country voting by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The UK provided significant technical and financial assistance to the polling within Sudan and overseas.

During polling I spoke to both Vice-President Taha and southern President Kiir about the need to resume negotiations on the outstanding CPA issues as soon as possible. I also spoke to President Mbeki, who leads the African Union high-level implementation panel that is supporting the parties, and to President Meles of Ethiopia. My right hon. Friend the International Development Secretary has spoken to Jean Ping of the African Union, Baroness Amos of OCHA and Dr Amre Moussa of the Arab League. The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Minister with responsibility for Africa, the Member for North West Norfolk (Mr Bellingham), has spoken to Haile Menkerios, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sudan.

The UK, working with international partners, worked closely with the parties to reach the comprehensive peace agreement in 2005. We remain fully supportive as they address the major challenges that still lie ahead. These include questions around the border between north and south, the status of Abyei, international debt, citizenship and security.

At the same time, the UK remains engaged on humanitarian and development issues. Of recent concern has been the large movement of people from north to south, and the displacement of 40,000 people due to violence in Darfur. Perhaps as many as 180,000 people have returned to southern Sudan since November. Contingency arrangements put in place have so far held: the UK has contributed £15 million to referendum-related contingency preparedness and, with the UN, is monitoring the situation closely.

Whatever the outcome of the referendum, the UK will continue its commitment to both north and south Sudan. We will continue to support African Union/United Nations Chief Negotiator Djibril Bassolé and the Government of Qatar as they seek to establish a lasting and inclusive peace in Darfur.

This is a critical moment for the people of Sudan. Much has been achieved that lessens the risks of a return to war, but there is still much to be done before the end of the comprehensive peace agreement on 9 July 2011.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 25 January 2011

TREASURY

Banking Act 2009 (Reporting)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Treasury has laid before the House of Commons a report required under section 231 of the Banking Act 2009 covering the period from 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010. Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Media Ownership

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Jeremy Hunt): On 3 November 2010 News Corporation notified the European Commission of its intention to acquire the shares in BSkyB that it does not already own. On 4 November 2010 the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills issued a European intervention notice in relation to the proposed acquisition. He asked Ofcom to investigate and report back to him by 31 December 2010 providing advice and recommendations on the public interest consideration in section 58 of the Enterprise Act 2002. This public interest consideration concerns the sufficiency of plurality of persons with control of media enterprises.

On 21 December 2010 the European Commission cleared the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation. The Commission concluded that the transaction would not significantly impede effective competition in the European economic area or any substantial part of it. The Commission made it clear that its decision did not prejudice my jurisdiction in relation to the merger's impact on the separate question of sufficiency of plurality in the media.

Following receipt of Ofcom's report and in the interests of transparency I want to inform the House of the timeline and process that I have followed to date in my considerations of the relevant public interest.

As such I am today publishing the following documents, copies of which will also be deposited in the Libraries of both Houses:

Ofcom's report on the public interest issues relating to News Corporation's proposed acquisition of BSkyB that was sent to me on 31 December 2010 (with redactions for confidentiality).

The OFT's report on jurisdiction that was sent to me on 30 December.

My letters to News Corporation and BSkyB of 7 January 2011.

BSkyB's response of 13 January 2011 with confidential information redacted.

News Corporation's response of 14 January 2011 with confidential information redacted.

After careful consideration of the Ofcom report which recommends referral to the Competition Commission, and as provided by section 104 of the Enterprise Act 2002 that sets out my duty to consult adversely affected parties, I met with News Corporation on 6 January to set out the process that I would follow and briefly explain Ofcom's conclusions. Having informed them of the process I then wrote to News Corporation and BSkyB on 7 January enclosing a copy of Ofcom's report. In this letter I explained that I was minded to refer the case to the Competition Commission but that I would receive written, and if necessary oral, representations from them if they wanted to challenge my thinking.

On 10 January I met with Ofcom to seek clarification on a number of aspects of their report.

In response to my letter of 7 January BSkyB and News Corporation provided written representations challenging elements of Ofcom's report on 13 and 14 January respectively.

These documents have today been published. After considering these responses and consistent with section 104 of the Enterprise Act I therefore met again with News Corporation on 20 January to hear representations on the issues they highlighted.

As a result of these meetings and my consideration of the Ofcom report and subsequent submissions from the parties involved I still intend to refer the merger to the Competition Commission. On the evidence available, I consider that it may be the case that the merger may operate against the public interest in media plurality.

However, before doing so it is right that I consider any undertakings in lieu offered by any merging party which have the potential to prevent or otherwise mitigate the potential threats to media plurality identified in the Ofcom report.

News Corporation says that it wishes me to consider undertakings in lieu which it contends could sufficiently alleviate the concerns I have such that I should accept the undertakings instead of making a reference. It is appropriate for me to consider such undertakings. In considering whether to accept undertakings in lieu, I will ask the OFT under section 93 of the Enterprise Act 2002 as an expert public body with experience in negotiating undertakings in lieu to be involved in the process from this stage. I will also ask Ofcom under section 106B for advice whether undertakings in lieu address the potential impact on media plurality.

If this process produces undertakings in lieu which I believe will prevent or otherwise mitigate the merger from having effects adverse to the public interest, and which I propose to accept, I will then publish the undertakings in lieu and (as required under the Act) begin a formal 15-day consultation period during which time all interested parties will be able to express their views.

It is in the nature of this process that I cannot give clear dates for each step as we move forward. My main concern is not to work to an arbitrary timetable but to ensure that I reach my decision in a fair and even-handed way which is transparent and ensures that all concerns are properly considered.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State with responsibility for agriculture and food represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels on 24 January.

There were three items on the agenda relating to agriculture. Discussion took take place on the following:

Presidency work programme: a routine presentation from the new (Hungarian) presidency of its plans and objectives.

A presentation by the Commission of its analysis of the state of honey bee health and what can be done to improve it. This is an important issue for the UK and we are already undertaking our own programme.

CAP reform: this debate will focus on the issues around natural resource protection and climate change.

There were five items under any other business:

Cross-border infectious animal diseases—a paper from Latvia flagging its action to prevent cross-border transmission of African swine fever from Russia and calling for EU support.

Current dioxin situation in Germany—a report from Germany on their current problems with dioxins in feed and the actions taken. The UK was one of the few member states directly affected (receiving some contaminated eggs).

Situation on the pig meat market—Belgium asking for Commission action to help farmers in the current difficult situation in the pig meat market and the setting up of a pig high-level group.

Foresight project on the future of food and farming—a UK item.

International agricultural markets—an update from the Commission on the current state of global food commodity markets.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Incapacity Benefit

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The trial for the reassessment of incapacity benefit customers in Aberdeen and Burnley has been under way since October last year. Over 1,000 customers have now been informed of the outcome of their reassessment.

The trial has tested a new process providing a number of additional support measures for customers as they go through their reassessment journey. At key points, Jobcentre Plus staff telephone customers to inform them about what is happening and to ensure they have access to appropriate help and advice. Customers also have the opportunity to discuss the decision on their case with a decision maker, putting into practice one of the key findings in Professor Harrington's recent review of the work capability assessment. These additional support measures have been welcomed by staff and customers.

We want to ensure that the experience gained in the trial is shared across all of the centres that will be dealing with the reassessment of incapacity benefit claimants before we move to the full, national roll-out in April. So we intend to have a limited, introductory phase in every centre carried out in the same controlled conditions as Burnley and Aberdeen. This will ensure the process remains robust and we continue to learn valuable lessons as more customers are involved in more areas across the country.

At the end of February, we will begin this introductory phase. Letters will be sent to 1,000 customers a week nationally, marking the commencement of their reassessment. So a total of around 300 people will be assessed in each reassessment centre over this period. In April, we will step up the implementation and increase the number of cases to around 7,000 a week. From May we will be processing the full case load of around 11,000 cases per week. This steady ramp up of activity will ensure that Jobcentre Plus and its partners are ready and can deal with the volume of cases as it builds. Customers' reactions to the changes will be closely monitored and lessons applied.

Our plans are on track. Reassessment remains a key priority for this Government. We cannot allow people to be trapped on benefits, but we will ensure people get the benefits and support that they are entitled to.

Employment and Social Policy Ministers (Informal Meeting)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Informal Meeting of Employment and Social Policy Ministers took place on 17 to 18 January 2011 in Budapest, Hungary. I represented the United Kingdom on day one of the meeting and the Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Minister with responsibility for employment relations, consumer and postal affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), attended the second day.

The themes for this two-day informal meeting were tackling youth unemployment and creating an employment-friendly recovery, which were discussed in workshop sessions. In the first workshop, tackling youth unemployment, the presidency underlined the importance of increasing youth labour market participation. Possible solutions included: raising skills, better careers advice, incentives to employ young workers, strengthening entrepreneurship and use of European Union funds especially the European social fund. The Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner highlighted some of the ideas in its "Youth on the Move" flagship initiative, including open-ended contracts and a youth guarantee and encouraged member states to take up these proposals. For the UK, I intervened to state that the European Union should prioritise a broad-ranging growth and competitiveness agenda and remove unnecessary regulation. I stressed the vital importance of impact assessments for any new regulation and early action to tackle unemployment by increasing labour market participation and improving skills. I outlined key UK policies that supported this agenda and highlighted the potential for member states to learn from each other through the open method of co-ordination. I also stressed that it was not necessary to apply the same solution in each member state. We needed flexibility around common goals. Many delegations broadly welcomed the Youth on the Move initiative although some argued that European Union-level action should not specify solutions and respect the differences in member states' industrial relations systems. Otherwise, there was a broad consensus on the need for education reform and improving skills levels.

In the second workshop, the presidency noted that while the economic outlook was brightening, employment rates were not improving and that meeting the Europe 2020 employment target would be a significant challenge. It emphasised the importance of promoting labour demand through labour-intensive investments focusing on those furthest from the labour market. The Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner argued for doubling of effort to avoid a jobless recovery. The "New Skills and Jobs" flagship initiative, the joint employment report and the annual growth survey were all recent Commission initiatives aimed at promoting growth. The Commission would adopt guiding principles to assist job creation later this year, focusing on addressing administrative and legal obstacles to hiring and firing; reducing non-wage labour costs; and measures to assist the move from informal and undeclared work into regular employment. Finally, the Commissioner argued the case for more and more visible ESF funding and better use of the EU microfinance. For the UK, the Under-Secretary with responsibility for employment relations, consumer and postal affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton, agreed with the emphasis on skills and training and stressed the importance of apprenticeships and benefit reform to help vulnerable workers. He also highlighted UK plans to simplify employment law, thereby reducing regulatory burdens on business as well as retaining a fair deal for workers.

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I regret to inform the House that there were inaccuracies in my written answer 15130 given on 4 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1346-48W. The response provided the number of winter fuel payments made in England, Dudley Borough and Dudley North constituency. The age breakdowns supplied for England were incorrect and figures were only provided up to 2008-09 instead of 2009-10. In addition there were some discrepancies in the figures for 2005-06. The correct information is below:

Arealage	*2009-2010*	*2008-2009*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*
England	10,810,140	10,592,900	10,345,380	10,028,780	9,864,190
Under 60	14,220	10,090	9,930	9,750	9,520
60-64	2,852,580	2,802,640	2,690,280	2,478,860	2,338,040
65-69	2,265,860	2,183,790	2,133,960	2,110,630	2,133,240
70-79	3,498,400	3,457,650	3,412,500	3,372,870	3,356,210
80 and over	2,179,080	2,138,730	2,098,700	2,056,680	2,027,190

Arealage	*2009-2010*	*2008-2009*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*
Dudley local authority	70,450	69,270	67,950	66,170	65,250
Under 60	100	80	70	70	60
60-64	17,940	18,040	18,000	17,040	16,570
65-69	15,670	15,100	14,650	14,580	14,760
70-79	23,650	23,210	22,930	22,480	22,120
80 and over	13,090	12,830	12,310	11,990	11,750

Arealage	*2009-2010*	*2008-2009*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*
Dudley North parliamentary constituency	19,890	19,690	19,490	19,220	19,180
Under 60	40	30	20	20	20
60-64	4,620	4,610	4,660	4,500	4,500
65-69	4,290	4,320	4,290	4,400	4,570
70-79	7,320	7,180	7,100	6,990	6,860
80 and over	3,620	3,550	3,410	3,310	3,230

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore totals may not sum.
2. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005.
3. The "under 60" category contains cases where an income support/jobseeker's allowance claimant receives a payment on behalf of their partner who is aged 60 or over.
4. Figures for 2005-2006 have been revised. I have arranged for the full revised table to be placed in the Library today.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 26 January 2011

TREASURY

Mortgage Market (Consumer Protection)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): Today the Government have announced a package of measures intended to enhance consumer protection in the mortgage market. These measures will:

> transfer the regulation of new and existing second-charge residential mortgages from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to the Financial Services Authority (FSA);
>
> ensure consumer protections are maintained when a mortgage book is sold by a mortgage lender to an unregulated firm; and
>
> extend the current regulation of the sale and rent back market to all providers.

An additional measure relating to a devolved matter—providing an exemption from FSA regulation for registered housing associations in Northern Ireland—is also included in the package.

This package is part of the Government's wider programme to reform financial regulation, to improve consumer protection and strengthen financial stability. It will simplify the mortgage regulation landscape by making the FSA responsible for all residential mortgages.

The statutory instruments will be published later in 2011. In advance of this, the Government expect the FSA to begin work immediately to implement these measures.

Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments (Report)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): On 22 July 2010, I announced that the Government would establish the Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments. This was in line with the Government's pledge to

> "implement the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman's recommendation to make fair and transparent payments to Equitable Life policy holders, through an independent payment scheme, for their relative loss as a consequence of regulatory failure".

Following the spending review, the Commission was asked to carry out two tasks. The first was to advise on the fair allocation of funds totalling £775 million among all policyholders, with the exception of with-profits annuitants (WPAs) and their estates. We had already announced that there should be no means-testing and that the estates of deceased policyholders should receive payments. The second was to advise on any groups or classes of policyholders that should be paid as a priority with regard to the timing of payments, again with the exception of WPAs and their estates.

The Commission has met with various interested parties, including the Equitable Members Action Group and Equitable Life, as well as receiving representations from a wide range of individual policyholders.

I would like to thank Brian Pomeroy, John Howard and John Tattersall for all their hard work on this issue. They have taken the time and care to find out policyholders' concerns and have used this knowledge to help form their very useful advice. The work that the Commission has carried out helps bring us a step closer to resolving this issue.

Today, I am publishing the Commission's advice and depositing a copy in the Library of the House. The Commission has recommended the following for the allocation of funds:

> a pro rata allocation of the available funds, in proportion to the size of relative losses suffered. This equates to 22.4% of each policyholder's relative losses;
>
> a single policyholder view, wherever practicable, offsetting relative gains against relative losses where policyholders have multiple policies; and
>
> a de minimis amount, in the region of £10, beneath which payments should not be made. This reflects the Commission's view that administering very small payments below this sum would be disproportionate to the administrative costs of making them while being of negligible significance to recipients.

The Commission recommends that the following groups be prioritised for payment, subject to the practical constraints laid out in the Commission's advice:

> the oldest policyholders, as they are least able to wait for payment and are also least likely to be in a position to mitigate the effects of a delay; and
>
> the estates of deceased policyholders and, as far as possible, the estates of those who die, before receiving a payment, in the next three years.

The Government accept the principles recommended by the Commission. Our task now is to work out how best those principles can be applied in practice to groups of policyholders while allowing us to begin making payments as soon as possible.

The Government will publish a detailed scheme design document that includes the practical application and delivery implications of the Commission's recommendations. I will make this available for parliamentary scrutiny in the spring.

DEFENCE

Single Source Pricing Regulations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am today announcing that Lord Currie of Marylebone is to chair an independent review of the regulations used by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) when pricing work to be procured under single source conditions without reference to competition. The existing framework is described by the Government Profit Formula and Associated Arrangements (GPFAA)—the so-called "Yellow Book"—of which MOD is the sole user.

The GPFAA stems from an agreement between HM Treasury and the Confederation of British Industry in 1968. Operational aspects have been reviewed since that time but successive Governments have left the underlying principles in place. Getting single source pricing right is of great significance to all stakeholders, not least taxpayers: MOD typically places annually around 40% by value of work on this basis.

The formula sets out profit rates allowed as addition to costs, as recommended by the Review Board for Government Contracts; my predecessor announced acceptance of the board's last report to Parliament on 30 March 2010, *Official Report*, columns 97-98WS. The GPFAA also includes Government accounting conventions setting out what costs are allowed when pricing single source work.

This review implies no criticism of the Review Board for Government Contracts, which is a valued part of the existing framework and whose remit has been to maintain the profit formula and examine only those issues set before it by MOD and industry.

The defence sector has evolved beyond recognition since the inception of the 1968 agreement. At that time, labour constituted over three quarters of costs in the defence sector. Now it is less than one quarter. The Government owned many more of the assets than we do now. Furthermore, the sector is facing an era of consolidation and restructuring. The Government inherited a fiscal situation that makes it more important than ever that industry is incentivised to reduce costs through the use of modern, fit-for-purpose commercial arrangements (including for small and medium-sized enterprises), additionally making UK industry more competitive on the world market. Therefore, I believe the time is right to carry out this review and have asked that an MOD team, working with the CBI, be established to support Lord Currie's investigation.

Lord Currie will be consulting widely with other stakeholders and will present his initial recommendations to me by July 2011, after which there will be further consultation with stakeholders to agree an implementation plan, at which time I will report back to the House. In parallel, MOD has requested that the Review Board for Government Contracts continue its work to maintain the existing processes through completion of its 2011 annual review of the profit formula, due to conclude in April 2011, and thereafter until the outcome of this review is known and a way forward agreed.

Special Representative to Gibraltar

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): I am pleased to announce today the appointment of the hon. Member for Epping Forest (Mrs Laing) as special representative to Gibraltar for defence.

The strategic defence and security review reaffirmed the importance of the permanent joint operating base in Gibraltar, which provides the armed forces with the ability to deploy force around the world and respond to changing strategic circumstances.

The hon. Lady's role as special representative will be to work with the Government of Gibraltar, the Ministry of Defence and Commander British Forces Gibraltar on a range of issues connected with the continued presence of the permanent joint operating base.

She will also work closely with the Governor of Gibraltar, whose constitutional responsibilities include defence and internal security and external affairs.

The special representative may also undertake additional defence tasks by agreement with the Ministry of Defence.

The hon. Lady has agreed that she will resign as chair of the all-party parliamentary Gibraltar group.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Independent Review of the Science Advisory Council to DEFRA

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I wish to update the House on developments related to the Science Advisory Council (SAC) to DEFRA.

I am pleased to announce a new model for the SAC following the outcome of the review of all arm's length bodies, and a separate and independent review of the SAC.

The ALB review sought to ensure better co-ordination between science advisory bodies in DEFRA. As part of this, the Department reviewed the role and functions of its 18 scientific and technical advisory bodies. On 14 October 2010 it was announced that the majority of the advisory bodies will become expert committees. They will continue to provide independent advice, but the change will allow for greater co-ordination as the scientific expert committees will work more closely with the Science Advisory Council and DEFRA'S chief scientific adviser.

DEFRA'S Science Advisory Council is to be retained as an NDPB, and will support the CSA in oversight of all relevant DEFRA scientific committees. It will continue to provide independent advice and challenge to the chief scientific adviser and Ministers on the science underpinning a range of DEFRA policies

The independent review of the SAC, led by Professor Charles Godfray and commissioned by DEFRA'S chief scientist, Professor Bob Watson, contained 12 major recommendations. Professor Watson and I are content to accept these recommendations which include:

that the SAC be reconstituted as a leaner body of around six people plus an external chair;

the need to articulate more clearly the role of the SAC and how it adds value to the Department's use of science and evidence;

the need to provide challenge and scrutiny to other bodies providing science advice to DEFRA.

A new model for the Science Advisory Council will be established in line with the independent review's recommendations. With these recommendations in mind, new terms of reference and a revised code of practice for members will be raised. The recruitment of new members will commence in February 2011, with the first SAC meeting scheduled for September 2011.

The SAC will support the CSA by independently assuring and challenging the evidence underpinning DEFRA policies and ensuring that the evidence programme meets DEFRA'S needs.

The DEFRA CSA will have oversight of, and offer support to, all DEFRA scientific expert committees, and the new SAC will support the CSA in this role. This approach will ensure that the Department achieves a greater and more co-ordinated level of evidence assurance.

Separately, DEFRA are taking forward plans to replace many of its advisory NDPBs with expert committees. Further announcements will be made in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BBC World Service

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I can inform the House that I have reached agreement with the BBC Trust on the strategic priorities for the BBC World Service for the period 2011-14. We have been engaged in close discussion with the BBC in the period leading up to and following the 2010 spending review (SR10).

As the House is aware, the context for the spending review was the fiscal legacy left by the previous Administration. We agreed total expenditure limits of £253 million/£242 million/£238 million over the first three years of the SR10 period. This represents a 16% cut in real terms. The FCO has provided a settlement that keeps the BBCWS' proportion of the FCO family's overall budget at or above its 2007-8 level through to 2013-14.

This settlement required difficult decisions to be made, and we agreed with the BBC that the overall objective was to ensure the World Service should remain an articulate and powerful voice for Britain in the world, and a trusted provider of impartial and independent news.

Under the terms of the broadcasting agreement between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the BBC World Service, no foreign language services can be opened or closed without my written authority. As part of the BBC World Service's strategy, I have therefore approved the BBC Trust's proposal to close five language services: Albanian, Macedonian, Serbian, Portuguese for Africa and English for the Caribbean. I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses copies of my correspondence with Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman of the BBC Trust, confirming this. Some 3.5 million people currently listen to the services that will be closed. The total World Service audience is 180 million.

The BBC World Service have also made strenuous efforts to find efficiency savings and drive down non-editorial costs, and will also be able to make savings from their move to Broadcasting House in 2012.

The BBC World Service asked for funds to help them with the additional contribution necessary for the deficit in the BBC pension funds. In the settlement, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were able to provide them with £13 million per annum to help them with these extra costs. I have also exceptionally agreed that if the additional contributions are less than the £13 million which the World Service have estimated, then the World Service can use the remaining funds for other purposes.

We are also providing an extra £10 million per annum for new services in markets that we and the BBC World Service have identified as priorities. These proposals include TV programming in Urdu, in sub-Saharan Africa and in Hindi to be provided to local partners. We have also guaranteed the capital for the move of the World Service to their new offices in West One.

These savings, together with the other changes the BBC World Service have announced today, should enable the World Service to prioritise their efforts away from shrinking markets and platforms (where there are developing local broadcasters, or short-wave audiences are falling) to growing markets.

The BBC World Service has an unparalleled international reputation. This Government are committed to supporting the BBC World Service, and ensuring it continues to retain its global influence and reach in a rapidly changing world.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Intercept as Evidence

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The lawful interception of communications is a vital tool for tackling the threat posed by terrorism and other serious crime. The coalition Government are committed to building on this by seeking to find a practical way to allow the use of intercept evidence in court.

The issues are complex. Because of this a first step has been to review previous analysis, including that in the Privy Council review (Cm 7324) and in "Intercept as Evidence a Report" (Cm 7760). Having done so, the Government are now in a position to set out next steps.

As recognised in the Privy Council review the state has an overriding duty to protect the public, including from threats such as international terrorism and serious organised crime. Bringing prosecutions against and securing convictions of offenders is an important means of doing so. Equally, the effective use of intercept as intelligence already makes a vital contribution to public protection and to national security more widely.

Therefore, the programme of work to be undertaken will focus on assessing the likely balance of advantage, cost and risk of a legally viable model for use of intercept as evidence compared to the present approach. The intention is to provide a report back to Parliament during the summer.

Recent work on intercept as evidence has benefited significantly from the experience of the Advisory Group of Privy Counsellors, comprising the right hon. Sir John Chilcot, the right hon. and noble Lord Archer of Sandwell, my noble Friend, the right hon. Lord Howard of Lympne and the right hon. Sir Alan Beith MP. I am pleased to be able to confirm that the members of the advisory group have, at my request and that of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, agreed to continue to provide assistance and oversight.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 27 January 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Workplace Disputes Reforms

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): Today the Government have announced the next steps in our comprehensive review of employment laws. We have launched a consultation on proposals to improve the way workplace disputes are resolved and published an "Employer's Charter" to give employers more confidence to take on workers and support growth.

In the consultation we are seeking views on measures to achieve more early resolution of workplace disputes so that parties can resolve their own problems, in a way that is fair and equitable for both sides, without having to go to an employment tribunal; ensure that, where parties do need to come to an employment tribunal, the process is as swift, user friendly and effective as possible; and help business feel more confident about hiring people (by increasing the qualifying period for employees to be able to bring a claim for unfair dismissal from one to two years).

The Employer's Charter tackles the myth that employment protections are all one-way—towards the employee. It clearly sets out the most important rights that employers already have in the workplace.

The consultation will close after 12 weeks on 20 April 2011. During the consultation period we will seek views from a range of interested parties. Following consideration of the responses to the consultation, we will publish a Government response, setting out what we intend to take forward.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

Economic and Financial Affairs Council

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr George Osborne): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 18 January 2011. The following items were discussed:

Presentation of the Presidency Work Programme

Hungarian Finance Minister Matolcsy presented the presidency work programme for ECOFIN for the first half of 2011. He identified his main priorities as the European semester, economic governance, financial services and the creation of the European stability mechanism.

Communication from the Commission: towards a Single Market Act

The Council held an exchange of views on the Single Market Act which was published on 27 October 2010 and is out for consultation until 28 February 2011. Ministers had a positive discussion and agreed that it would be important for ECOFIN to continue to engage on those issues that are led by Finance Ministers. The Government support the single market and believe that future reforms should be strongly focused on measures that encourage growth. The Council agreed to re-examine the issue in due course.

Follow-up to the December European Council meeting

The Council took note of the presidency's plans for the follow-up to the European Council's meeting on 16 and 17 December which called for work on legislative proposals aimed at strengthening EU economic governance to be accelerated, so that they can be adopted by June this year.

Annual Growth Survey

The Council held an exchange of views on a presentation by the Commission, which covered the main elements of its annual growth survey published on 12 January. The adoption by the European Commission of the annual growth survey will mark the beginning of the first cycle of the European semester. The Government are content with the Commission's focus on growth, in line with objectives for the single market. ECOFIN will agree Council conclusions on this in February.

Review of draft National Reform Programmes (NRPs)

Ministers discussed a review of member states' draft national reform programmes (NRPs) which set out member states' reform priorities and plans. The Government are content with the Commission's positive assessment of the UK draft NRPs and believe that the focus of all member states NRPs should be on tackling bottlenecks to growth. In March the spring European Council will provide guidance to member states for finalisation of their stability and convergence programmes (budgetary policies) and national reform programmes (structural reforms). Full NRPs are due in April.

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

The Council concluded that action by Malta to reduce its excessive deficit represented adequate progress.

Introduction of the euro in Estonia: Practical experience

The presidency noted that the introduction of the euro in Estonia had gone very smoothly, and warm congratulations were extended.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Public Forest Estate

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I have today published a public consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England. A copy of the consultation document is available through the DEFRA website (www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/index.htm) and the Forestry Commission website (www.forestry.gov.uk/england-pfe-consultation) and I have placed copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

The public forest estate in England is around 258,000 hectares of Government-owned land managed by the Forestry Commission. It represents less than one fifth of the woodlands of England, with the majority of the remainder in private and voluntary sector ownership. The estate was started at a time of national crisis after the first world war, with severe shortages of timber and a woodland resource depleted to less than 5% of the land area in Great Britain.

In line with the Government's broad policy to effect a shift from big Government to big society, the consultation sets out the rationale for reducing state ownership and management of forest resources. The status quo is not an option. There is a fundamental conflict of interest in the Forestry Commission's role. It is the largest player in the commercial forestry sector, a sector it also regulates.

The Government's approach to looking at new models of ownership and management of the public forest estate in England will be underpinned by a set of key principles that are designed to protect public access and other public benefits that so many enjoy. The Government's proposals, on which the consultation seeks views, are for a mixed approach which includes:

recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to the different types of woodland and forestry;

inviting new or existing charitable organisations to take on ownership or management of the heritage forests in order to secure their public benefits future generations to enjoy;

creating opportunities for community and civil society groups to buy or lease forests that they wish to own or manage; and

issuing long-term leases on the large-scale commercially valuable forests. By leasing rather than selling, it will be possible to ensure that the public can continue to enjoy their benefits.

The Government are committed to the ongoing provision and protection of the public benefits provided by the public forest estate. The policy we are consulting on shows how we intend to achieve this. We will ensure that the powers in the Public Bodies Bill reflect our policy objectives, so that the powers and duties within it are strengthened to safeguard the natural and social capital our forests provide now and for future generations. This would apply to the powers of sale, lease and management of the public forest estate. The consultation proposes that conditions will be attached to leases so that access and other public benefits are protected. We will consider:

introducing a general duty on the Government to have regard to the maintenance of public benefits when exercising the powers under the Bill;

exempting the most iconic heritage forests from the full range of options so that for example, the Forest of Dean or the New Forest could only be transferred to a charitable organisation or remain in public ownership, in line with the policy as set out in the consultation.

The Forestry Commission will play an important role in supporting the wider forestry sector—through its regulatory, grant-giving, research and expert advisory roles—to provide a wide range of public benefits.

The consultation relates to 85% of the public forest estate. The remaining 15% is covered by the spending review settlement, announced in October 2010.

I am today publishing tightened criteria for those sales under the Forestry Commission's programme to deliver £100 million in gross receipts during 2011-15. During 2010, the Forestry Commission's asset disposal programme continued under criteria established by the previous Administration. At the end of 2010, pending review of the sales criteria, Ministers withdrew some sites from sale. The new criteria have been amended to strengthen the protection of public benefits through the withdrawal from sale of woodlands with significant areas of unrestored plantations on ancient woodland sites.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council/Foreign Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council will meet in Brussels on 31 January. My Right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will attend the Foreign Affairs Council. I will attend the General Affairs Council.

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

Hungarian Presidency

The Hungarian Foreign Minister will formally introduce Hungary's presidency priorities (see link below). Hungary intends to focus on three economic issues: the need to conclude discussions regarding the design of the new "European Stability Mechanism"; the need to reach a general approach on the economic governance package; and to reach final agreement on EU 2020. Other topics expected to be highlighted include pushing for a Commission strategy on Roma; beginning discussions on the Danube strategy; working towards entry into Schengen by Bulgaria and Romania; enlargement; and creating concrete projects to promote the eastern partnership.

http://www.eu2011.hu/priorities-hungarian-presidency

Follow-up to the December European Council and preparations for the February European Council

The presidency has invited the President of the Council, Herman Van Rompuy, to discuss preparations for the European Council of 4 February. The February European Council agenda covers energy and innovation. Discussions should focus on the "Energy 2020" strategy (further detail below) and how to increase levels of innovation in the private sector. There may also be some discussion of economic governance and the European stabilisation mechanism, although they are not officially on the February European Council agenda.

More information on this meeting, and other EU meetings this month, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/fc/118910.pdf

Details about the "Energy 2020" strategy can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/publications/doc/2011_energy2020_en.pdf

European Semester: Annual Growth Survey

Ministers will consider the European semester. The European semester will put EU and member state discussions of economic priorities and structural reforms on a common timetable. There will also be a presentation by the presidency of the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) which covers key economic themes for the EU and national action over 2011, and identifies priorities to tackle. There will not be conclusions on the AGS, as the main work will be carried out by other Council formations: namely ECOFIN and EPSCO. We broadly support the focus on growth. Alongside fiscal consolidation and a more competitive financial sector, a comprehensive structural reform programme will be essential to improving competitiveness.

Roma

The presidency is expected to initiate a procedural discussion on future work on the Roma ahead of an April Commission presentation of a framework strategy on Roma inclusion. The Government support this discussion and work in the EU to share best practice and assist member states in promoting Roma inclusion. However, we are also clear that primary responsibility for the Roma lies with member states and that there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach.

Danube Region Strategy

The Danube region strategy is a complex sustainable development strategy for the regions in the catchment area of the Danube river. It covers: transport/economic/industrial issues; environmental/food supply; and cultural/heritage/education. The UK broadly welcomes the strategy, although a full evaluation of the projects is needed.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

Sudan

We expect conclusions welcoming the timely, credible and peaceful conduct of the southern Sudan referendum as a crucial step in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). The conclusions should also look forward to the publication of the results of the referendum, and emphasise the need for resolution of the remaining CPA issues.

On Darfur, we believe that the conclusions should express concern about the increasing violence and poor security situation in Darfur, and the need for genuine engagement by all parties in the peace process. We support proposals for a Darfur-based political process when the conditions are right, and which complement the ongoing Doha process.

Lebanon

Ministers will discuss latest developments in Lebanon following the collapse of the Lebanese Government. The EU's support for the special tribunal in Lebanon was most recently expressed in the November 2010 conclusions (see link below). At this stage, new conclusions are not expected, though the position could change depending on events on the ground.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/117948.pdf

Côte d'Ivoire

We expect conclusions expressing concern over the situation in Côte d'Ivoire. We would like the conclusions to call for the peaceful and swift transfer of power from the former President Gbagbo to the elected President Ouattara and to reiterate our support for the robust stance taken by ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) and the African Union in upholding democracy in the region and throughout the continent. Ministers may also discuss EU support to UNOCI (United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire) and African initiatives to facilitate reconciliation.

Sahel

The EU Sahel strategy is currently being developed by the European External Action Service in conjunction with the EU Commission. We are supportive of this strategy in principle; a comprehensive EU approach on security and development strands in the Sahel is worthwhile, as underlined by the kidnap and murder of two French nationals in Niamey on 7/8 January. However, any UK final support would depend on a detailed analysis of the strategy—which we have not yet seen in full—and its resource implications.

Freedom of Religion

In response to the recent attacks against religious communities in a number of countries, we expect conclusions to be adopted on the issue of "Intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief". We believe these conclusions should send a strong statement of the Council's condemnation of these events and its commitment to upholding the right to freedom of religion or belief. We also believe that the conclusions should signal the European Union's determination to promote freedom of religious belief through a clear commitment to undertake further practical measures in this area.

Belarus

We expect conclusions to: reiterate EU statements to date on the flawed December elections; to announce the FAC's decision to impose travel restrictions and asset freezes on those responsible for the fraudulent elections and for the subsequent violent crackdown on the opposition, civil society and representatives of the independent media; and to set out the EU's intention to support the Belarusian people and civil society. The Government's aim is to focus the discussion on the need to develop a coherent, long-term strategy for Belarus. Baroness Ashton made a statement on Belarus to the European Parliament on 19 January:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/11/34&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en

Strategic Partners

Baroness Ashton is expected to provide a short debrief on her presentation to the December European Council on the EU's relations with its strategic partners, setting out next steps in this work programme.

Russia

We expect Ministers to discuss the formation of a more balanced partnership between the EU and Russia; one which promotes and strengthens mutual prosperity and is underpinned by a legally-binding, ambitious new EU-Russia agreement. It is likely that frozen conflicts in the former Soviet Union will be discussed, including the need for pressure on Russia to deliver on Transnistria. Climate change and energy, and rule of law and modernisation in Russia are also likely to be raised. Ministers will address the human rights situation in Russia, following a number of recent, well-publicised cases of concern. There will also be discussion of how to deliver progress on the EU-Russia agreement, improve the architecture of EU-Russia co-operation, and improve internal EU working methods on Russia policies.

Additionally, Ministers may reflect on the shocking act of terrorism at Moscow's Domodedovo airport on 24 January. The Foreign Secretary's statement on this can be seen at the link below.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=539155782

Iran

Baroness Ashton is likely to provide an update on the E3 plus 3 talks with Iran in Istanbul on 21-22 January. Due to Iran's insistence on unacceptable pre-conditions, no further talks are scheduled. Following the talks in Istanbul, Baroness Ashton released a statement on behalf of the E3 plus 3 on 21 January:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu./uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/118915.pdf

We are also hope there will be a discussion of proposed EU measures to tackle Iran's poor human rights record.

Tunisia

Ministers will discuss EU support for Tunisia following recent events. We expect conclusions to be adopted which call for a stable and inclusive transition to elections as soon as practicable, and restate the EU's support for political and economic reform in Tunisia. The Government consider that free and fair elections, as promised by Tunisia's interim Government, are essential for Tunisia's stability; and we firmly support EU assistance in this area.

Middle East Peace Process

Baroness Ashton will report back from her recent trip to the middle east (see link), and outline preparations for the 5 February Quartet meeting in Munich. We also expect her to update Ministers on progress for proposals to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza that were agreed at the FAC in December 2010.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/118717.pdf

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forensic Science Research and Development

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): I am today announcing a review, led by the Home Office chief scientific adviser, Professor Bernard Silverman, of research and development in forensic science.

Research and development in forensic science is essential to ensure the continued availability of a high-quality, efficient, forensic science capability for the criminal justice system.

The purpose of the review is to consider the current and likely future status of research and development relevant to forensic services for the criminal justice system within England and Wales. The scope will include, but not be limited to, fingerprints, DNA profiling, digital forensics (e-forensics) and more specialist aspects of forensic science.

The review will consult widely with forensic service providers and related organisations in the public and private sectors, academia and research funders, as well as issuing an open call for submissions of evidence. The review will also work closely with the National Policing Improvement Agency and police service customers. It is expected that the review will conclude in April 2011.

The full terms of reference for the review will be published on the Home Office website today and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): My right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and I attended the informal Justice and Home Affairs Council on 20 and 21 January in Gödöllo.

Discussions on the Interior day centred on two themes: "Internal Security: combining efforts in combating organised crime" and "comprehensive security through integrated border management".

The Commission opened the item on organised crime by highlighting cybercrime and asset recovery; they felt there was a need to focus on the exchange of best practice. The Chair of the European Parliament LIBE Committee suggested that proving the effectiveness of the EU in the security field was one of the biggest challenges for the EU. The Europol director gave a preview of their organised crime threat assessment noting an increasing risk in particular in relation to the infiltration of the legal economy and facilitation of illegal activity by the internet. There was an increasing use of aircraft and helicopters for smuggling of goods, use of minors for petty crime and sexual exploitation, an upsurge in counterfeiting and a largely unnoticed trade in endangered species. Interpol highlighted the ability of organised crime to destabilise whole countries and gave the example of cocaine trafficking via West Africa.

The UK said that it recognised organised crime as a real threat alongside counter-terrorism and would be developing a new strategy. In particular the UK acknowledged cybercrime as requiring particular attention, although it was often old crimes committed by new methods. The UK welcomed practical co-operation, rather than legislation, and agreed with the presidency that we needed to look imaginatively at ways of tackling crime, including seizure of assets. Most member states thought further work on asset-freezing, confiscation and sharing was a priority and welcomed the Commission's commitment to bring forward a report on the issues in the second half of 2011.

The Commission opened the second session by highlighting action they were taking. They would forward a border package over the next year, including looking at an EU electronic system for travel authorisation (ESTA) and a proposal on a European border surveillance system (EUROSUR). They also saw a need to finalise discussion on the new Frontex regulation and to reform the Schengen evaluation mechanism. Frontex, the EU's External Borders Agency, felt that priorities were better inter-agency co-operation, situational awareness and targeted co-operation at the border. Frontex also needed to be able to do more on capacity building and returns with third countries.

The UK stated that it was correct to focus on integrated management of the border and supported the Greek action plan, which was critical to the EU's collective success. For the UK modern technologies were a key part of a 21st century response to maintain border security while facilitating legitimate travel. For that reason the UK supported the philosophy behind EU proposals for registered travellers and an entry-exit scheme and, given our experience, the introduction of biometric visas. We were concerned about the UK's exclusion from the proposal for the Schengen evaluation mechanism. The e-borders system allowed the UK to focus resources and evidence suggested that intra-EU flights were important and hoped that would be covered by the new EU passenger name records measure. In subsequent discussion many member states highlighted the use of technology as important and in particular interoperability of technologies. Many welcomed the Commission proposals for amendment to the Schengen evaluation mechanism and thought that greater use needed to be made of Frontex.

The Justice day began with a discussion on a Communication published by the Commission entitled "EU Citizenship: how to dismantle the obstacles to EU citizens' rights?" This sets out what the Commission considers to be the obstacles EU citizens face when trying to exercise their rights across national borders and suggests actions to tackle them. Among other things, the presidency invited discussion about whether the Justice and Home Affairs Council should adopt an oversight role over the actions suggested in the report, but this gained little support. The UK welcomed the overview the Commission report provided and highlighted criminal justice as an area where we needed absolute confidence in others' systems. The UK suggested that the Commission should also focus on making it easier for individuals and businesses to enforce civil debts across borders.

Ministers were also asked what they considered to be the key elements of the proposal on Succession and Wills in simplifying citizens' rights. This gave rise to a substantial debate. The UK reiterated its concerns with this proposal.

Over lunch, the presidency held a discussion on the role of the Council in ensuring the effective implementation of the charter of fundamental rights in the legislative process. Their paper raised the question whether there was a need for further Council processes to verify member states' compliance with the charter. The UK, together with a number of other member states, questioned whether there was sufficient support for the presidency's proposal to be taken forward.

Next, there was a discussion on "Judicial training: how to improve training of legal professionals in the EU". The Stockholm programme stressed the importance of judicial training and the Commission has committed to producing a communication on training of legal practitioners in September 2011. The majority of member states, including the UK, did not favour creation of a new training institution, preferring to build on existing structures including the European Judicial Training Network. The UK welcomed the intention of improving judges' knowledge of EU law and each others' systems and particularly the Commission's recognition that it would have to accommodate very different systems.

JUSTICE

Data Protection Legislative Framework

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Lord McNally, has made the following written ministerial statement:

Tomorrow, I will publish the Government's response to the Call for Evidence on current data protection law which was held between July and October 2010.

The Call for Evidence sought evidence about areas of the European Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC and the Data Protection Act 1998 that may be out of date or could be improved, and also those areas that are working well and should be retained. Over 160 responses were received from across the public, private and third sectors, consumer groups and members of the public. The evidence received will help to inform the UK's position for the forthcoming negotiations on a new comprehensive EU instrument for data protection. A proposal for this instrument is expected from the European Commission in mid-2011.

At the same time as publishing this response, the Government will publish a post-implementation review impact assessment of the Data Protection Act 1998, having received comments on the provisional document published alongside the Call for Evidence. The post-implementation review primarily aimed to assess the costs and benefits the Act has generated, but findings from the review will also contribute to the UK's evidence base for negotiations on a revised EU legal instrument.

Copies of the response to the Call for Evidence paper and the post-implementation review impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 31 January 2011

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service Restructure

The Attorney-General (Mr Dominic Grieve): : This statement sets out the forthcoming changes to the current Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) structure, which the CPS is introducing from 1 April 2011.

Under the current CPS structure there are 42 areas aligned to individual police force boundaries. These areas are presently organised as 13 regional groups. In the new structure the 13 groups will become 13 new larger areas, with a chief Crown prosecutor (CCP) supported by a number of deputy chief Crown prosecutors to provide leadership across the new areas.

This change builds on the experience and success that the CPS group structure has provided over recent years. It establishes a solid foundation for the future and provides the CPS with greater capacity, capability and flexibility to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

The CPS has carefully considered the changes taking place in the criminal justice system (CJS) and believes that the new structure will provide a better strategic fit with its partners and places the CPS in the best possible position to deal with the modernisation of the CJS including digital working. The new structure will also provide an improved service for serious and sensitive casework, especially work received from regional intelligence units and regional asset recovery teams.

Under these new arrangements there will continue to be a strong presence in each police force area with dedicated teams working with local police forces and senior CPS leaders to provide a strong focus on local liaison, partnership and accountability.

The CCPs for the new CPS areas are set out below.

North East	Wendy Williams
Yorkshire & Humberside	Neil Franklin
North West	Robert Marshall
Merseyside & Cheshire	Paul Whittaker
Wales/Cymru	Jim Brisbane (Acting)
West Midlands	Harry Ireland
East Midlands	Judith Walker
Eastern	Ken Caley
South East	Roger Coe-Salazar
Thames Chiltern	Baljit Ubhey
Wessex	Nick Hawkins
South West	Barry Hughes
London	Alison Saunders

These CCPs will be writing to their MPs locally prior to 1 April 2011 to confirm the details of these changes and how the arrangements will operate in practice in the new areas.

TREASURY

Northern Ireland Gas Supplies

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): The Government have today announced the climate change levy [CCL] exemption for supplies of gas in Northern Ireland will be replaced with a lower rate from 1 April 2011.

Following discussion and agreement with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland, legislation will be introduced in the Finance Bill 2011 to remove the exemption and replace it with a lower rate for a transitional period of 1 April 2011 to 31 October 2013, after which the main CCL rate for gas will apply in Northern Ireland. During the transitional period such supplies will become subject to the levy at a rate of £0.00059 per kilowatt hour, which is 65% lower than the full rate of CCL on gas for business and public sector consumers. Domestic consumers do not pay CCL.

Following consultation with the European Commission, the Government consider it is unlikely that they would be able to secure re-approval for the exemption. The measure is therefore necessary to ensure compliance with European tax law and state-aid rules.

To give gas suppliers and business gas consumers certainty over their tax affairs, this announcement is being made early to allow energy suppliers and businesses in Northern Ireland time to start to prepare for the introduction of the lower rate on 1 April 2011.

Copies of the draft legislation and tax information and impact note have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Treasury website at

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance Settlement 2011-12

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): I have today laid before the House the "Local Government Finance Report (England) 2011-12 (HC 748)". This report establishes the amounts of revenue support grant and non-domestic rates to be paid to local authorities in 2011-12, and the basis of their distribution. A draft of this report was issued for consultation on 13 December 2010.

We received a total of 330 written responses from 283 individual authorities, formal and informal groupings of authorities and others during the consultation, and Ministers met delegations from the Local Government Association, London Councils and a large number of individual local authorities.

Having considered the views of all those who have commented on the provisional settlement, I have decided to broadly confirm the proposals for the distribution of formula grant for 2011-12 as announced in December, after correcting a number of minor errors and inconsistencies that came to our attention during consultation.

We received many representations on concessionary travel. This is a prime example of how the last Government introduced a policy with no idea of how it would be funded fairly. It has left us with a challenging legacy. I have decided to help compensate shire district councils for the loss of what they used to spend on concessionary travel. To address this, a further £10 million has been added to formula grant—for 2011-12 only—in order to mitigate the impact of the transfer on shire districts.

We have also improved the minimum guarantee so that now no council will receiv[illegible] “revenue spending power” reduction of more than 8.8% in either 2011-12 or 2012-13. Details on “spending power” are set out in an explanatory note which is being placed in the Library of the House. In finalising our methodology, we have accepted a number of representations including the exclusion of parish precepts from our spending power calculations.

The need to reduce public spending means that this is a unique settlement—we are looking for councils to show how efficient they can be, and to root out the wasteful spending that still exists while ensuring that money goes to the front-line public services.

Despite the huge pressures on public finances, the coalition Government have taken unprecedented steps to protect councils most reliant on central Government funding and freeze council tax.

We have taken a progressive and fair approach to calculating how the £29 billion of central taxpayer funding for local government grants this year will be allocated. More money is being channelled to those areas of the country that have the highest levels of need.

We are also helping to protect the public from excessive council tax rises with our £650 million fund so town halls can freeze council tax this April. This will offer real help to families and pensioners. We will provide each authority that does not increase its basic level of council tax with a grant equivalent to the revenue it would have generated had it increased it by 2.5%. I would like to impress upon authorities that under the terms of the scheme they will not receive any grant if they increase their council tax at all.

The Government anticipate that authorities will choose to take up the freeze. However, where authorities opt to increase their council tax instead the Government are prepared to take capping action against excessive increases. The Secretary of State will set out the capping principles that he intends to use to compare authorities' budgets in the next few days, leaving ample time for authorities to consider their budgeting before the deadlines for setting their council tax.

I have also today laid before the House the “Limitation of Council Tax and Precepts (Alternative Notional Amounts) Report (England) 2011-12 (HC 774)”. This report takes account of changes to authorities' functions and grants during 2010-11, and contains details of the figures that will be used to compare authorities' budgets between years, should capping be necessary.

I shall be sending copies of the Local Government Finance Report to all local authorities in England, and making available full supporting information on the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/1112/grant.htm.

Copies of the report and related tables showing each authority's allocation of formula grant and other supporting material, and the “Limitation of Council Tax and Precepts (Alternative Notional Amounts) Report (England) 2011-12”, have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

The Tote

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (John Penrose): The Government announced in a written ministerial statement, 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 39WS that preparations were under way to launch an open market process to resolve the future of the Tote. This followed the announcement in the Budget of 22 June 2010 that the future of the Tote would be resolved within 12 months in a way that secures value for the taxpayer and which recognises the support the Tote currently provides to the racing industry.

The Government can now inform the House that the first stage of that open market process has been successful. The Government are pleased with the level of interest shown in the process. Eighteen indicative proposals were received, each of which has been assessed against the Government's objectives.

Following this review, a selected number of parties have now been invited to advance to the next stage of the process where they will receive more detailed information. The Government expect to be in a position to provide the House with a further update in the spring.

Given the commercially sensitive nature of the process the Government will not be making public the details of the individual proposals received as part of the open market process nor the identity of those parties that have been invited to participate in the next stage.

The Government can also confirm that in the event that the Tote is sold on the open market it will honour the commitment of the previous Government to share 50% of the net cash proceeds of sale with racing. The proceeds will be made available over the spending review period (or longer if the sale proceeds are particularly high) because of the broader fiscal position and the need to spend the funds consistent with EU state aid rules, but the Government will pay interest on the outstanding balance in the normal way. The Government look forward to working closely with racing in the event of an open market sale to design appropriate arrangements.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Monthly Progress Report December 2010

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): I wish to inform the House that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, together with the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development, is today publishing the second progress report on developments in Afghanistan. It follows the first report covering November published on 14 December 2010.

The report focuses on key developments during the month of December.

ISAF operations continue to put pressure on the insurgency. More areas have been cleared of insurgent influence and, importantly, those areas are now being held. Increased ISAF and Afghan national security force operations are restricting the insurgents' ability to launch complex attacks. These gains are an important sign of progress, but they are not irreversible.

The Afghan national security forces continue to grow. By late December the Afghan national army had reached a total size of 146,000, and the Afghan national police 116,000. Further work is necessary on reducing attrition rates and increasing leadership quality. Training, mentoring and coaching programmes continue to improve overall Afghan national security force capability.

British forces, partnered by forces from the Afghan national army, have temporarily extended their operations to secure greater freedom of movement along highway one. This is to link the economic and population hubs of Helmand and Kandahar. Improved freedom of movement will enable ISAF and the Afghan national security forces to increase security in both provinces.

The Afghan high peace council convened further road shows to publicise the Afghan peace and reintegration programme and to give guidance to provincial governors in Kandahar, Herat and Jalalabad. These followed an earlier road show held in Mazar-e-Sharif

The Afghan Government have continued to make progress on their national priority programmes, in particular on financial and economic reform and health and education.

Elders and community representatives for the Marjah district in Helmand have agreed that elections for a district community council should be held in February 2011. This is an important reflection of growing confidence in Marjah.

The Helmand police training centre, opened in December 2009 with UK support, is now enrolling 150 new recruits every three weeks for eight-week courses. In the last week of December, the 2000th recruit since its inauguration graduated from the centre. Two UK-funded buildings were opened in December: a new detention centre and a temporary facility for juvenile prisoners. The UK supported training for Helmand's statutory justice officials on criminal law and on judicial ethics. The UK-funded Helmand legal aid office hired the province's first female paralegal.

Regional economic cooperation was strengthened further with the 11 December signing of an agreement for the construction of the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline. The Presidents of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey met in Istanbul on 24 December 2010 to discuss security, infrastructure, trade and culture. We welcome this continued commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region.

I am placing the report in the Library of the House. It will also be published on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website (www.fco.gov.uk) and the HMG UK and Afghanistan website (http://afghanistan.hmg.gov.uk/).

HEALTH

Commissioning and Public Expenditure

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): I have today laid before Parliament the Government's responses (Cm 8007 and Cm 8009) to the House of Commons Health Select Committee reports "Public Expenditure: Second Report of Session 2010-11", which was published on 14 December 2010 and "Commissioning: Third Report of Session 2010-11", which was published on 18 January 2011.

We accept the level of challenge presented in our modernisation of health and social care but we are clear that these changes are necessary and that the funding announced during the 2010 spending review, coupled with more efficient delivery systems, will allow the required change to take place across the health and social care sectors. These changes will bring about closer working across the sectors creating services that will be more responsive, more personalised and more preventative with better outcomes for those who use them.

The starting point for the Committee's inquiry into commissioning has been the previous Committee's findings on the significant shortcomings of the current arrangements for commissioning in the NHS. We welcome the Committee's conclusion that more effective commissioning is the key to delivery of efficiency gains. The White Paper, "Liberating the NHS", sets out a new direction for the future of commissioning, intending to put commissioning decisions in the hands of those who are closest to patients themselves—GPs.

The Health and Social Care Bill introduced into Parliament on 19 January takes forward the changes to the NHS set out in the White Paper and further developed in December's "Legislative framework and next steps".

The programme of modernisation we have set out is essential both to drive efficiency in the short-term, and help ensure that the NHS meets the ambition to achieve outcomes for patients that are among the best in the world.

Today's publications are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Grant Report England and Wales (2011-12)

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice (Nick Herbert): My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, has today laid before the House the "Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2011/12 (HC 771)". The report sets out my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary's, determination for 2011-12 of the aggregate amount of grant that she proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996, and the amount to be paid to the Greater London Authority for the Metropolitan Police Authority.

This statement also includes amounts that the Home Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government intend to provide in 2012-13. Indicative overall amounts of Home Office grant are also provided for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Table 1: Provisional and Indicative revenue allocations for English and Welsh Police Authorities for 2011-12 and 2012-13

Police Authority	*2011-12*					*2012-13*				
	HO Core	*NPF*	*Welsh Top up*	*WAG*	*CLG £m*	*HO Core*	*NPF*	*Welsh Top up*	*WAG*	*CLG £m*
Avon & Somerset	120.9	7.4	0.0	0.0	64.3	112.7	7.3	0.0	0.0	60.2
Bedfordshire	43.9	2.8	0.0	0.0	29.3	40.8	2.7	0.0	0.0	27.4
Cambridgeshire	53.7	3.7	0.0	0.0	29.7	50.0	3.6	0.0	0.0	27.8
Cheshire	69.5	4.8	0.0	0.0	53.2	64.3	4.8	0.0	0.0	50.2
City of London	31.6	1.3	0.0	0.0	29.9	30.2	1.3	0.0	0.0	27.3
Cleveland	51.4	3.0	0.0	0.0	46.3	47.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	43.6
Cumbria	33.1	2.3	0.0	0.0	36.1	30.5	2.3	0.0	0.0	34.0
Derbyshire	70.2	3.7	0.0	0.0	45.8	65.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	43.2
Devon & Cornwall	118.9	7.5	0.0	0.0	72.3	110.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	67.9
Dorset	45.9	3.3	0.0	0.0	21.0	42.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	20.0
Durham	47.8	3.3	0.0	0.0	44.4	44.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	41.7
Dyfed-Powys	34.3	1.6	6.5	17.1	0.0	32.1	1.6	6.3	15.7	0.0
Essex	117.6	7.2	0.0	0.0	65.7	109.5	7.2	0.0	0.0	61.5
Gloucestershire	39.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	22.4	36.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	21.1
Greater London Authority	1127.7	101.9	0.0	0.0	897.8	1051.6	101.3	0.0	0.0	838.2
Greater Manchester	248.5	17.4	0.0	0.0	220.0	230.2	17.3	0.0	0.0	206.9
Gwent	48.2	3.0	0.0	35.1	0.0	44.7	2.9	0.0	33.0	0.0
Hampshire	138.0	7.6	0.0	0.0	74.3	128.1	7.6	0.0	0.0	69.9
Hertfordshire	79.5	5.3	0.0	0.0	44.5	73.9	5.3	0.0	0.0	41.8
Humberside	74.8	4.8	0.0	0.0	55.5	69.5	4.7	0.0	0.0	52.1
Kent	117.9	8.1	0.0	0.0	81.6	109.5	8.0	0.0	0.0	76.6
Lancashire	114.3	8.2	0.0	0.0	92.7	105.7	8.2	0.0	0.0	87.5
Leicestershire	72.4	4.7	0.0	0.0	48.0	67.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	45.0
Lincolnshire	42.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	24.6	39.8	2.9	0.0	0.0	23.1
Merseyside	137.8	9.9	0.0	0.0	133.5	127.0	9.8	0.0	0.0	126.1
Norfolk	57.7	4.0	0.0	0.0	33.1	53.7	3.9	0.0	0.0	31.0
North Wales	49.6	3.3	6.5	27.0	0.0	46.2	3.3	6.5	24.8	0.0
North Yorkshire	47.2	3.4	0.0	0.0	31.7	43.9	3.4	0.0	0.0	29.8
Northamptonshire	48.6	3.0	0.0	0.0	28.8	45.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	27.0
Northumbria	124.3	9.0	0.0	0.0	126.7	115.0	8.9	0.0	0.0	119.2
Nottinghamshire	86.8	5.5	0.0	0.0	57.0	80.7	5.5	0.0	0.0	53.5
South Wales	100.6	6.7	0.0	81.9	0.0	92.7	6.7	0.0	77.6	0.0
South Yorkshire	110.8	6.6	0.0	0.0	94.5	102.7	6.6	0.0	0.0	88.8
Staffordshire	74.2	4.5	0.0	0.0	48.9	68.6	4.5	0.0	0.0	46.2
Suffolk	45.9	3.1	0.0	0.0	27.3	42.8	3.1	0.0	0.0	25.5
Surrey	70.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	35.3	65.0	4.4	0.0	0.0	33.2
Sussex	109.0	7.2	0.0	0.0	65.9	101.1	7.2	0.0	0.0	62.0
Thames Valley	158.2	9.2	0.0	0.0	89.4	147.0	9.1	0.0	0.0	84.0
Warwickshire	35.2	2.8	0.0	0.0	20.1	32.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	18.9
West Mercia	74.1	5.4	0.0	0.0	52.1	68.6	5.3	0.0	0.0	49.1
West Midlands	272.9	16.0	0.0	0.0	224.9	252.9	15.9	0.0	0.0	211.5
West Yorkshire	192.7	14.3	0.0	0.0	150.9	179.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	141.2
Wiltshire	41.6	2.8	0.0	0.0	25.3	38.7	2.8	0.0	0.0	23.8
Total England & Wales	*4779.1*	*340.0*	*13.0*	*161.0*	*3345.0*	*4440.1*	*338.0*	*12.8*	*151.0*	*3138.0*

Police Authority	*2013-14 HO• £m*	*2014-15 HO• £m*
Avon & Somerset	120.1	*118.3*
Bedfordshire	43.4	*42.7*
Cambridgeshire	53.3	*52.4*
Cheshire	68.0	*66.5*
City of London	32.9	*33.0*
Cleveland	50.2	*49.1*
Cumbria	32.3	*31.5*
Derbyshire	69.0	*67.6*
Devon & Cornwall	117.4	*115.2*
Dorset	44.9	*43.9*
Durham	46.9	*45.9*
Dyfed-Powys	31.1	*30.5*
Essex	116.7	*114.9*
Gloucestershire	38.4	*37.7*

Police Authority	*2013-14 HO* £m*	*2014-15 HO* £m*
Greater London Authority	1102.3	*1084.1*
Greater Manchester	244.1	*239.0*
Gwent	46.0	*44.9*
Hampshire	136.1	*133.6*
Hertfordshire	78.5	*77.1*
Humberside	73.8	*72.4*
Kent	116.4	*114.2*
Lancashire	111.8	*109.2*
Leicestershire	71.6	*70.3*
Lincolnshire	42.3	*41.5*
Merseyside	133.9	*130.5*
Norfolk	57.2	*56.2*
North Wales	44.7	*43.7*
North Yorkshire	46.6	*45.7*
Northamptonshire	48.2	*47.5*
Northumbria	121.7	*119.0*
Nottinghamshire	85.7	*84.2*
South Wales	106.9	*105.0*
South Yorkshire	109.0	*106.9*
Staffordshire	72.6	*71.0*
Suffolk	45.6	*44.9*
Surrey	69.1	*67.8*
Sussex	107.4	*105.3*
Thames Valley	156.2	*153.4*
Warwickshire	34.7	*34.1*
West Mercia	72.6	*71.0*
West Midlands	268.1	*262.6*
West Yorkshire	190.9	*187.8*
Wiltshire	41.1	*40.4*
Total England & Wales	*4699.7*	*4612.3*

JUSTICE

Victim and Witness Voluntary Sector Funding

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government are committed to ensuring that assistance is available for those victims and witnesses of crime most in need of support. I have now announced grant funding of up to £9.8 million per year, for three years, for voluntary sector groups providing specialist support to many of the most serious, most vulnerable and persistently targeted victims and witnesses of crime.

This grants scheme includes a dedicated funding stream of up to £3.5 million annually to meet the Government's commitment to provide rape crisis centres with stable, long-term funding.

The remainder of the fund will be open to a wider range of voluntary sector organisations that provide support better targeted on the most vulnerable victims and witnesses of crime, including groups that offer specialist support to those bereaved by murder and manslaughter.

Final funding decisions will be announced in April 2011.

Service Personnel Inquests (Operations and Exercises Overseas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make the latest of our quarterly statements to the House with details of the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. We remain deeply grateful to all of our service personnel who are serving, or who have served, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our most sincere condolences go, as ever, to the families of those service personnel who have lost their lives in the service of their country, and in particular to the nine who have died since our last statement. All of the families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, or who have otherwise lost their lives in connection with the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, remain very much in our thoughts.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, and other coroners in England and Wales. This statement gives the position at 25 January.

I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses, which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. These tables include information about cases where a board of inquiry or a service inquiry has been held.

Our Departments remain committed to working closely together to improve our processes and to continue the Government's support for coroners conducting inquests into operational deaths. As a result of these improvements, the dedication of coroners and the support from both Departments, 130 inquests were completed in 2010, compared with 58 inquests being completed in 2009. There are no outstanding inquests into deaths prior to 4 December 2008.

We would again like to thank all of the coroners who are involved in conducting these inquests, as well as those people who provide support and information before, during and after the inquest process.

Since October 2007 additional resources have been provided by both Departments for operational inquests. These resources have been provided to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, Mr David Ridley, due to the repatriation of service personnel at RAF Lyneham and the formation of the MOD Defence Inquests Unit in 2008. These measures have been provided to ensure that there is not a backlog of operational inquests.

Current status of inquests

Since the last statement 20 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.

There have been a total of 435 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 11 service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

Open inquests

Fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan

At present there are 80 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, (25 involving deaths in the last six months). Of the remaining open inquests, the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has retained 33, while 47 are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. Hearing dates have been set in five cases. One recent fatality awaits repatriation and inquest opening

There are two remaining open inquests into deaths from operations in Iraq.

Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain 11 inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. These will be listed for hearing when the continuing investigations are completed.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Robert Hamill Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): The House will be aware of the announcement made by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) on 21 December 2010. In that statement, the PPS confirmed that, following a review of all the available evidence including that given to the Hamill tribunal, it concluded that the test for prosecution is met in respect of two persons for an offence of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and one person for an offence of doing an act with intent to pervert the course of justice.

As I informed the House in my written statement of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, 131WS, the Hamill inquiry intends to complete its report by the end of February. It remains my intention to publish the report as soon as practicable, but in light of the legal proceedings against these three individuals, I have decided not to publish the inquiry's report until the legal proceedings have concluded; to do so would certainly jeopardise these individuals' right to a fair trial. I understand from the inquiry that it is also the family's wish that the legal proceedings are not prejudiced by the publication of the report. In the meantime, I am exploring ways of ensuring that the report is safely and securely stored between its completion and its publication.

Once the legal proceedings have concluded and the inquiry's report is delivered to me, I am responsible for its publication. In anticipation of this, I have asked a small team of officials to commence the checking of the inquiry's report in relation to human rights and national security matters, as outlined below. I intend to adopt the same approach as was used for the checking of the reports of the Bloody Sunday inquiry and the Billy Wright inquiry.

I am advised that I have a duty, as a public authority under the Human Rights Act, to act in a way that is compatible with the European convention on human rights (ECHR). To fulfil this duty, I need to take steps to satisfy myself that publication of the report will not breach article 2 of the convention by putting lives or safety of individuals at risk. I am advised that these obligations must be met by me personally, in my capacity as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Although the inquiry is also a public authority under the Human Rights Act, I am not entitled to rely on the inquiry to satisfy my article 2 obligations and I have a duty to assess this myself. I also have a duty to satisfy myself that publication will not put national security at risk, for example by disclosing details of sources of protected information.

I have established a small team to assist me in carrying out this necessary exercise. The team will be formed of the Northern Ireland Office's principal legal adviser and an adviser from the Police Service of Northern Ireland. This team will be granted access to the report under strict terms of confidentiality and for the sole purpose of carrying out the necessary checks, and they will report directly to me alone. Sir Edwin Jowitt has agreed that this team can carry out the checks on the inquiry's premises while the report remains in the custody of the inquiry. I understand that the report will be made available for checking today.

I want to publish the report in its entirety. Should any concerns about the safety of any individual arise, my first course of action would be to consider whether these can be addressed through alternative means. Were I to reach the conclusion, on advice, that a redaction to the text might be necessary, I would consult Sir Edwin Jowitt. In the very unlikely event that any redaction was deemed necessary, my intention would be to make this clear on the face of the report.

It is not possible to estimate how long the legal proceedings against the three individuals will take. I assure the House that once they have concluded, I intend to publish the report as soon as possible. Once a timetable for publication becomes clear, I will update the House accordingly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Call for Evidence - Pensions

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Today the Government will publish their call for evidence on regulatory differences between trust-based occupational pension schemes and contract-based workplace personal pension schemes. We want to hear about areas where the existing rules or requirements appear to be at odds with our aim of getting people saving in a workplace pension. We do not want to see instances of regulatory differences being exploited.

In particular we are interested in views and evidence concerning the use of short service refunds and disclosure of information, which provide a valuable administrative easement for many occupational schemes but need to be considered carefully against the potential risk to the success of the workplace pension reforms.

Automatic enrolment will play a major part in reinvigorating the pensions landscape, bringing millions of individuals into pension saving. We need to make sure that the legislative framework for workplace pension schemes is straightforward and supports our goals of increasing individuals' retirement savings.

The Government will respond to the call for evidence in the autumn, outlining the actions we intend to take in response to the evidence presented.

A copy of the call for evidence document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and is available on the Department's website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 February 2011

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing Finance

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today signals a landmark in the freeing up of councils to successfully manage their own housing stock for the benefit of their tenants. A change that has long been talked about, but the coalition Government are actually delivering.

Today we are publishing the information councils need to plan for this significant reform. Reforms which will see councils keep their own rents and spend them on their own housing. This includes a detailed description as to how their opening financial position will be determined and the process for implementing these reforms in April 2012. It also gives each local authority a much clearer idea as to exactly how they will be affected by the reforms. This will enable them to use the next 14 months to plan ahead and put themselves in the best possible position to maximise the benefits of the new freedoms. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

In line with the Government's emphasis on transparency, local authorities and tenants will be able to see how and why the valuation has altered since the proposals published in March 2010.

Our proposals for self-financing for council housing will:

give councils the resources they need to manage their own housing stock for the long-term—correcting decades of under-funding;

give councils the incentives and flexibility they have sought to drive up quality and efficiency; and

give tenants the information they need to hold their landlord to account—replacing the current opaque, centralised system with one which establishes a clear relationship between the rent councils charge and the services they provide.

These reforms are fair. They are rooted in a consistent and tested calculation of the value of each council's social housing business, producing a sustainable self-financing settlement for each local authority. I expect all councils to welcome the reforms and to start planning now how to make the most of their new freedom.

Research Projects

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): Today the Government are publishing the first group of reports presenting the findings from research projects commissioned by the previous Administration.

There is a significant backlog of unpublished reports that were produced by the previous Government and over the next few months we will be publishing these reports in groups themed on a particular topic.

The reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements. We are publishing these documents in the interests of transparency and as part of our freedom of information commitment to publish the results of all commissioned research. For transparency, all completed work is being published regardless of format or robustness.

The 16 reports published today represent the findings from 11 research projects at a total cost of £691,000. These findings cover the topics of housing; local government and building, planning and the environment.

The Government are concerned to ensure their research delivers the best possible value for money for the taxpayer and that sums expended are reasonable in relation to the public policy benefits obtained. DCLG has put in place scrutiny and challenge processes for future research.

All new projects will be scrutinised to ensure the methodology is sound and that all options for funding are explored at an early stage. This includes using existing work from other organisations, joint funding projects with other Departments or organisations and taking work forward in-house.

Housing

(i) *Behavioural change and the housing sector: A scoping study report*—This report by Ferrari et al considers the benefits and implications of applying behavioural economics to analyse the motivations and decisions made by different actors in the housing supply and demand chain.

(ii) *Choice-based lettings, potentially disadvantaged groups and accessible housing registers: A guide to positive practice*—The guide provides advice on how to set up and operate choice-based letting schemes to ensure that social housing applicants are not disadvantaged by the proactive nature of choice-based lettings.

(iii) *Choice-based lettings, potentially disadvantaged groups and accessible housing registers: summary guide to positive practice*—This report is a shorter, stand-alone summary of the "choice-based lettings, potentially disadvantaged groups and accessible housing registers: a guide to positive practice". This summary contains all the key messages of the longer report.

(iv) *Costs and effectiveness of accessible housing registers in a choice-based lettings context*—This report examines the cost and effectiveness of accessible housing registers in a choice-based letting context.

Local Government

(v) *Strategic commissioning for place shaping: Volume 1—A report written by practitioners for practitioners and Volume 2—Case studies*—The long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships includes two action learning sets, short projects where practitioners meet and share learning about how to improve the day-to-day working of particular aspects of local area agreements. The sets cover strategic commissioning for place shaping.

(vi) *Long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships: Performance management of local strategic partnerships and local area agreements*—An action learning set report written by practitioners for practitioners. The long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships includes two action learning sets, short projects where practitioners meet and share learning about how to improve the day-to-day working of particular aspects of local area agreements. The sets cover performance management of local strategic partnerships and local area agreements.

(vii) *Report on the 2009 survey of local strategic partnership partners: Main report and Annexes*—This research was commissioned as part of the long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships. It captures the views of local partners—from the public, private and voluntary sectors—on a range of subjects, including how effective they think their partnership is, and the local area agreements and other powers help partnerships achieve their objectives.

(viii) *Long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships: Collaboration, innovation and value for money*—Final report of the call-down project. This report, part of the long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships, explored the ways in partnerships had made use of innovation to meet shared priorities, and examined the contribution of value-for-money considerations in the process of innovation design and implementation.

(ix) *Understanding performance in a flexible, decentralised approach to delivery*—This report provides help and worked examples in moving between geographies as a way to understand performance, to meet cross-cutting policy requiring local information at bespoke geographic areas independent of formal administrative or statistical units.

(x) *Using and developing place typologies for policy purposes*—This report supports area-based policy-making, particularly in regeneration and local economic development, and the monitoring and comparison of local government performance. It provides advice on how to make policy sensitive to the enormous variability in neighbourhoods, districts, cities or towns by using methods for categorising places.

(xi) *A study to determine whether it is possible to produce Gross Value Added data for upper tier local authorities*—This report details the ONS regional accounts' methodology used to produce gross value added estimates at nomenclature of units for territorial statistics (NUTs) level 3 estimates, and evaluates whether the methodology can be extended to upper-tier authorities for which gross value added estimates do not currently exist.

Building, Planning and the Environment

(xii) *Evaluating the effectiveness and outcomes of DCLG funded interventions into the delivery of core strategies*—This report evaluates the effectiveness of DCLG funded support packages used to promote the delivery of "core strategy" development plans for those local authorities that were encouraging higher levels of housing growth under the previous Government.

(xiii) *Code for sustainable homes water calculator*—This report reviews the water efficiency calculator for new dwellings, which supported the code for sustainable homes.

(xiv) *Building regulations system and the planning system*—A better regulation approach for sustainability. This report analyses the interface between planning and building regulations in the context of environmental sustainability, to investigate the overlaps, synergies and gaps between the two systems.

(xv) *The scope of an MOT test for buildings*—This report covers a scoping study into the possible development of an MOT test for buildings and whether it was feasible to have periodic tests carried on buildings.

(xvi) *The use of civil sanctions to enforce building regulations*—This report looks at the possibility of adopting some or all of the civil sanctions made available under the regulatory Sanctions and Enforcement Act 2008 for the purpose of achieving higher levels of compliance with the building regulations.

These reports and findings are of general policy interest, but do not relate to forthcoming policy announcements and are not a reflection of the current Government's policies and priorities. DCLG is publishing these reports in the interests of transparency.

Copies of these reports are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Programme Spending 2011-12

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): In my statement to the House of 29 June 2010, I informed the House of the outcome of my review of how the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will spend its programme funding in this financial year. I am now in a position to announce decisions about programme spending for the next financial year 2011-12.

The Foreign Office's priorities are to safeguard Britain's national security, build British prosperity and support British nationals around the world.

The review we have conducted will ensure that FCO programme spending is aligned with our priorities and contributes to the development of Britain's diplomatic influence and the promotion of our values. We must ensure the money is spent effectively and supports the Government's commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI as official development assistance (ODA) by 2013.

As a result of the review the FCO will change the way it manages its programme spending. We will give British ambassadors greater responsibility for deciding how best to spend their local budgets to support UK foreign policy objectives and strengthen bilateral relationships. We will reduce administrative spending and seek other cost savings. We will introduce new procedures to assess the impact of FCO programme spending worldwide.

For the 2011-12 financial year, we have decided to allocate:

£57 million for programmes dedicated to national security;

£24 million for programmes to support UK prosperity, including through the promotion of a stable and open global economic environment which will help countries develop; and

£58.5 million for the support of democratic values, human rights and British diplomatic influence overseas.

This is a total of £139.5 million. I anticipate that in future years it will be necessary to make some reductions in these allocations in order to be able to continue to support our diplomatic network overseas, while achieving the savings we committed to making during the comprehensive spending review.

Within the overall allocations set out above we have made a number of significant decisions on funding for individual programmes next year.

On security, we will sustain spending on counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation at £38 million and £3 million respectively. We will provide £16 million for spending on counter-narcotics and rule of law programmes in Afghanistan. This represents a reduction of £2 million, which will be made possible without affecting the outcomes of our projects there, as several of them will reach the end of their capital investment stage. We will incorporate future spending on drugs and crime projects into the bilateral programmes managed by posts overseas, while provide a total of £2 million as a ring-fenced element within those budgets to be dedicated to projects on drugs and crime.

We will significantly increase spending on programmes to help countries develop and to support UK prosperity, bringing these to a total of £20 million. We will spend more on projects which promote openness, international trade and investment, transparent and stable regulatory environments and strengthen the multilateral trading system and international investment opportunities, while resisting protectionism, including creating a commercial diplomacy fund of £4 million dedicated to identifying and securing commercial opportunities for our businesses, and supporting inward investment to the UK. We will maintain current levels of spending on our successful programme which promotes the global transition to a low-carbon economy, energy efficiency and security, and is intended to increase the prospects of reaching a global climate change agreement.

In terms of the promotion of our diplomatic influence and values, we will increase funding for bilateral programmes to £19 million, including a ring-fenced allocation for the western Balkans and other non-EU countries in Europe. We will establish a new fund of £5 million to address, in partnership with regional governments, the long-term underlying governance and social, economic and political participation issues affecting the Arab world. We will increase spending in the support of the overseas territories to £7 million. We will sustain our spending on human rights and democracy at £5 million. We will slightly increase spending in support of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy to £3.5 million. We will dedicate £17 million to spending on scholarships while at the same time ensuring a greater proportion of that spending is in Commonwealth countries.

We will reduce spending on strategic communications by one third to £2 million, targeting spending on activities and initiatives which actively support FCO priorities, and spend a greater proportion of this funding in posts overseas.

I will provide the House with details of programme spending for future years in due course together with further information about how we will ensure that these funds provide the best possible value for the public money.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 2 February 2011

HEALTH

Mental Health

The Secretary of State for Health (Mr Andrew Lansley): The Government are today publishing "No health without mental health: A Cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages" for England.

At least one in four of us will experience a mental health problem at some point in our life, and around half of people with lifetime mental health problems experience their first symptoms before the age of 14. The society-wide costs of mental health problems have recently been estimated at £105 billion, and the costs of treatment alone are expected to double in the next 20 years.

We knew that change is needed and there are two powerful themes to our new approach. The Government must deliver a co-ordinated cross-Government focus, which genuinely supports local action. Equally, local strategies and more equal patients' voices enable more decisions about mental health to be taken locally based on evidence of effective practice and delivering the best value for our society.

Our approach is based on the principles that Government have laid down for all their health reforms:

patients would be more involved in decisions about their treatment and care so that it is right for them—there will be "no decision about me without me";

the NHS would be more focused on results that are meaningful to patients by measuring outcomes such as how successful their treatment was and their quality of life, not just processes like waiting list targets;

clinicians would lead the way—GP-led groups will commission services based on what they consider their local patients need, not on what managers feel the NHS can provide;

there will be real democratic legitimacy, with local councils and clinicians coming together to shape local services; and

they will allow the best people to deliver the best care for patients—with those on the front line in control, not Ministers or bureaucrats.

It is clear that the coalition Government's success will be measured by the nation's well-being, not just by the state of the economy. We know the conditions that foster well-being and, in recent years, much more about the interconnections between mental health, housing employment and safe communities. This strategy builds on that knowledge and the Government are investing around £400 million on psychological therapies to support people who need them across England. In all, this strategy captures this Government's ambitious aim to mainstream mental health in England and our commitments include:

making mental health a key priority for Public Health England, the new national public health service;

agree and use a new national measure of well-being;

ensure that mental health remains high on the Government's agenda by asking the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Public Health to oversee the strategy at national level; and

challenge stigma by supporting and working actively with the "Time to Change" programme.

"No health without mental health: A Cross-Government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages" has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Knife, Gun and Gang Crime

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): The Government are today announcing a total of over £18 million of ring-fenced funding over two years for police, local agencies and the voluntary sector to tackle teenage knife, gun and gang violence and prevent young people from entering a cycle of crime. An independent report by Brooke Kinsella, "Tackling Knife Crime Together—a Review of Anti-Knife Crime Projects," is also being published.

The two-year Home Office funding will support enforcement work by police in three police force areas, alongside positive activities for young people across England and Wales, and local work to bring about long-term changes in attitudes and behaviours. The money, to be distributed in 2011-12 and 2012-13, includes up to:

£10 million for prevention and diversionary activities and engagement with young people at risk of becoming involved in crime, including knife-related violence;

£4 million for local voluntary organisations across England and Wales working specifically with young people most at risk of involvement in knife and gang violence;

£3.75 million for the three police forces areas where more than half of the country's knife crime occurs—London, Greater Manchester and the West Midlands;

£1 million to support the development of anti-knife, gun and gang crime materials for schools and a good practice website to enable local projects to share knowledge and expertise; and

£250,000 for one further year of the Ben Kinsella fund for young people to run anti-knife crime projects in their local area.

Police and Crime Commissioners will be introduced in May 2012 and this funding will run from April 2011 to March 2013.

The Brooke Kinsella report makes a number of recommendations including anti-knife crime work with school children, more information sharing between police, schools and other agencies on local issues, a best practice website for local organisations and more work with young children to stop them getting involved in knife crime.

Over 2011-12 and 2012-13 the Home Office will also provide up to £20 million towards Department for Education's early intervention grant which local areas can use for youth crime prevention, and up to £18 million for youth offending teams (via the Ministry of Justice) to deliver front-line work, including knife crime prevention programmes, for young offenders.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 February 2011

TREASURY

Public Service Pensions

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): Legislation governing public service pensions requires them to be increased annually by the same percentage as additional pensions (state earnings-related pension and state second pension). Public service pensions will therefore be increased from 11 April 2011 by 3.1% in line with the annual increase in the consumer prices index up to September 2010, except for those public service pensions which have been in payment for less than a year, which will receive a pro rata increase.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

European Regional Development Fund (Revised Management Arrangements)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Andrew Stunell): My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Hanham, has made the following written ministerial statement:

I am today announcing a series of changes I will be making to the operation and delivery of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in England.

ERDF is a key driver for economic growth and the sub-national agenda and I have seen for myself some of the benefits it has brought to local communities. The operation of ERDF is governed by complex European regulations and comes with stringent penalties if those are not met. As the Secretary of State outlined in a departmental press notice of 7 July 2010, the new Government inherited up to £150 million of potential liabilities from the previous Government due to financial and administrative irregularities. It is vital that taxpayers have confidence that their money is not being wasted.

ERDF is currently delivered by teams in the regional development agencies. Following our decision to abolish these agencies and encourage local communities to come together to form economic partnerships that make sense for them, I have concluded that in order to maintain compliance with the regulations and spending momentum, we should transfer the existing ERDF staff and functions into my Department by the beginning of July.

In London, the Greater London Authority is establishing a housing and regeneration division from parts of the London Development Agency and the London elements of the Homes and Communities Agency. So I have concluded that, in line with the steps we are taking in the Localism Bill to transfer power and functions to the Mayor of London, the Greater London Authority is well placed to continue to operate ERDF in the capital.

We want to encourage local communities to make use of ERDF. This is more likely to happen if ERDF teams continue to be located close to the places they serve so they are on hand to offer support and advice to projects. So I have decided that we must aim to locate the ERDF teams as far as possible in their existing towns or cities.

We are committed to giving localities and communities greater control and greater influence over the programmes and services delivered in their areas. To help achieve this, I have decided that we should restructure existing Programme Monitoring Committees as Local Management Committees which can ensure that, within the parameters already agreed with the EU, local people and businesses can influence the shape of the programme. These Committees give strategic direction to the operational programmes and ensure that they are delivered compliantly and that outputs are delivered. I will be looking to ensure that the local representatives from across the public, private, voluntary and community and local authority sectors are represented on the Local Management Committees.

I am committed to ensuring my Department plays a key role in ensuring that the delivery of ERDF remains compliant with EU regulations. To deliver that, I have decided that a DCLG director will chair the Local Management Committees. But to underline our commitment to localism, I have also decided that a significant figure from the local community should be appointed as a deputy chair of the Local Management Committee, to ensure that the ERDF programmes are overseen and shaped by local people. We will work with local communities to determine who should occupy this role.

We will be working closely with the existing membership of the Programme Monitoring Committees and other local representatives to determine the practical details of the changes I want to make. That will include the role of the Local Management Committees, how the deputy chair and membership will be selected and what underpinning arrangements they will need.

Finally, as we said in the "Local Growth" White Paper, we want to make it easier for local communities to access all elements of regeneration funding, so my Department is working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to determine the scope to align the application processes for ERDF and the regional growth fund. We will also be looking to ensure that this new process delivers greater efficiency through limiting duplication.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Mental Health Act 1983 (Repeal of Section 141)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): Section 141 of the Mental Health Act 1983 sets out a process by which MPs are to vacate their seats if they have a mental health condition and are authorised to be detained under mental health legislation for a period of six months or more. The process involves the Speaker of the House of Commons receiving reports from registered medical practitioners. If the Speaker receives two such reports, six months apart, that the MP is in such detention, the Speaker lays both reports before the House of Commons and the MP's seat automatically becomes vacant. Section 141 also applies in relation to the devolved assemblies with the presiding officer of each assembly performing the functions of the Speaker.

Although the provisions in section 141 have never been used, this section is symptomatic of an outdated attitude towards mental illness which is out of touch with the modern understanding of mental health. It treats mental ill health differently from physical ill health. It sends out the message that if you have a mental health condition, your contribution is not welcome in public life. That is a message this Government wish to change.

This Government agree with the all-party parliamentary group on mental health that section 141 should be repealed as soon as possible—a view endorsed by the Speaker's Conference (on Parliamentary Representation) Final Report (2010) HC 239-1, paragraph 327.

We will introduce provisions to repeal section 141 at the earliest opportunity.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 523W to the hon. Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) contained some inadvertent errors in relation to the number of representations received on Sheffield Forgemasters.

The correct information is as follows:

We have received letters from 12 private individuals, one Member of Parliament on behalf of an unnamed constituent, one not-for-profit organisation and one private company on this issue. However, this does not include all representations where Sheffield Forgemasters might have been just one of the issues raised in a letter. To search all the correspondence that might contain a representation on Sheffield Forgemasters would incur disproportionate cost

I apologise to the hon. Member and to the House for this error.

EU Emissions Trading System Registries (Suspension of Transfers)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): On 19 January, following a number of successful cyber attacks on EU member states' emissions trading system (EU ETS) registries, the European Commission suspended all internal and international transactions within all the EU ETS registries. These registries are the repositories for EU emission allowances and an important part of carbon market trading.

The UK agreed with the European Commission that EU member states should not be able to reopen registries until they had provided sufficient evidence to the European Commission that their registries meet a number of minimum security requirements. The UK registry is widely seen as one of the most secure registries in Europe with at least one market participant recommending this week its clients should use the UK registry. The UK's registry administrator, the Environment Agency, earlier this week submitted the required evidence to the Commission. We have received confirmation this morning that the UK registry will reopen on Friday 4 February at 7 am.

While it is important to ensure a minimum level of security now to ensure the reopening of the registries, the UK will continue to press the European Commission to ensure that registry security across Europe is raised above this level. This is vital to ensure continued confidence in this growing market.

The temporary suspension of registry transfers has had an impact on the carbon market, though this has been concentrated in spot trading, (which allows for instant delivery of allowances bought on the secondary market), which represents only 10% of trading on the carbon market. The futures market, which is predominately based in the UK and accounts for the remaining 90% of the carbon market, has shown only a limited level of disruption. Trading here has continued at broadly the same volumes as before the registries were closed and the impact on the EU emission allowance price has been limited.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Jordan

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr William Hague): The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord Howell of Guildford, made the following statement:

> "Jordan is a close ally and we value the support they offer on regional issues such as the middle east peace process. We are watching closely the situation in Jordan following the disbanding of the cabinet. It is important that Jordan continues its programme of political and economic reform. We will work with the Jordanian Government to support that goal."

General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council were held on 31 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I represented the UK.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC)

The GAC was chaired by the presidency, Hungarian Foreign Minister Martonyi. A provisional report of the meeting can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/119Q37.pdf

Hungarian EU Presidency

The presidency presented the main themes of the presidency's programme along the lines that I reported in my pre-FAC/GAC written ministerial statement of 27 January.

December and February European Councils

After a brief review of the December European Council of 16-17 December, Ministers discussed preparations for the 4 February European Council. On energy, views were exchanged on: integrating the internal energy market; achieving energy efficiency targets and promoting renewable energies; and improving the coherence of the EU's external action on energy issues.

I proposed that the EU should look at developing its strategic energy partnerships with countries bordering the EU.

On innovation, a number of member states emphasised the need to be more ambitious on the digital single market.

European Semester and Annual Growth Survey

The presidency presented its roadmap for the European semester which is being implemented for the first time this year as part of a reform of EU economic governance.

The European semester involves simultaneous monitoring of member states' budgetary policies and structural reforms, in accordance with common rules, during a six-month period every year. Under the European semester, all other member states will send draft budgetary plans to the EU for consideration in the spring. However, because the UK's fiscal year is different, and because the Government were determined to respect section 5 of the 1972 European Communities Act which states that the UK will only submit fiscal data to the Commission if it has already been presented to Parliament first, the Government secured in June 2010 a provision in the stability and growth pact code of conduct to say that we will present our final budget, not our draft budgetary plans, to the EU. The UK budget will therefore already be publicly available and have been presented to Parliament. The Commission and European Council will then provide policy advice and guidance to member states. The final decisions on national budgets will remain with national Parliaments for all member states. Moreover, the UK is explicitly excluded from sanctions under the stability and growth pact, as the taskforce report states: (para 18.ii) "strengthened enforcement measures need to be implemented for all EU member states, except the UK as a consequence of protocol 15 of the treaty.

On the annual growth survey, the presidency highlighted three themes:

enhancing macroeconomic stability;

structural reforms for tackling unemployment; and

measures to enhance economic growth under existing strategies.

Roma

The presidency said they planned to present a report to the GAC in May on integrating Roma. This should be forwarded to the European Council of 24 June.

Strategy for the Danube Region

The presidency and the Commission gave short presentations on their goals of improving co-operation and cohesion in the region in areas such as the environment and developing prosperity.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

The FAC was chaired by Baroness Ashton. A provisional report of the meeting and adopted conclusions can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_dataydocs/pressdata/EN/foraff/119045.pdf

Egypt

Discussion on Egypt took up a large part of the meeting. The adopted conclusions (see link) stress the need for a broad-based Government, an "orderly transition" and for "free and fair elections".

Ministers took the opportunity to discuss the broader implications for the region and the EU's neighbourhood policy. The Foreign Secretary emphasised the need for the EU to support Egyptian institutions, values and processes. The EU should also review its engagement in the region. UK initiatives like the Arab human development programme might offer a model. For more on the FCO's projects in the Middle East see the following link:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/conflict-prevention/mena/middle-east-peace-process1/

The Commission (Fule) briefed on existing EU support to Egypt: €145 million through the European neighbourhood policy instrument and €20 million planned from the European instrument for democracy and human rights. He added that the Commission was prepared to offer Egypt electoral support.

Baroness Ashton undertook to schedule future FAC discussion on the EU's neighbourhood policy and to explore the possibly of sending an EU fact-finding mission to Egypt as soon as it was safe to do so.

Tunisia

Following on from the discussion on Egypt, Ministers agreed to adopt conclusions (see link) on Tunisia that support the transition to democracy and to offer assistance with elections. The conclusions also include measures to freeze the assets of those who have embezzled Tunisian public funds. In interventions, many emphasised the need to maintain Tunisian ownership of the election process and called for a review of the EU-Tunisia advance status negotiations.

Belarus

Ministers agreed conclusions (see link) imposing sanctions against the Belarusian Government in response to its post-election crackdown. There was broad agreement that the release of seven detainees over the weekend did not sufficiently address concerns to warrant stopping the sanctions. The Foreign Secretary said the EU had offered a positive approach to the Belarusian regime which had been rejected. So it was right to impose these sanctions. Additionally, the EU should keep open the prospect of economic sanctions.

Cote d'Ivoire

Ministers had a short discussion where they agreed conclusions (see link) that confirmed the EU's support for President Ouattara and set targeted sanctions against former President Gbagbo.

Sudan

Conclusions (see link) welcoming the preliminary results of the referendum were agreed. Ministers discussed the post-referendum situation and the need to develop a long-term EU engagement plan for both south and north Sudan. Concern was also expressed about the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Freedom of Religion and Beliefs

Ministers discussed recent attacks on religious minorities in the Middle East and how the EU might respond. There was general agreement that the EU should send a strong message of concern about these attacks. Baroness Ashton tasked that the Political and Security Committee to develop a set of conclusions for adoption at a future FAC.

Sahel

Conclusions were agreed (see link). During a brief discussion, some member states asked for the new strategy for the Sahel to be adopted quickly.

Albania

There was insufficient time to for Ministers to have a discussion on recent events in Albania. Baroness Ashton and Commissioner Fule stressed they were both actively engaged.

Iran

The Netherlands raised the execution of the Dutch/Iranian dual national Zahra Bahrami. The Foreign Secretary's statement about his can be seen at the following link:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=542737582

Foreign Ministers' dinner with Baroness Ashton

Over dinner, Baroness Ashton led a discussion on the EU's relationship with its strategic partners with a particular focus this time on its objectives for Russia. Ministers also reviewed developments in the Middle East ahead of the Quartet meeting of 5 February and discussed Lebanon. Finally, Baroness Ashton briefed on the Istanbul talks of 21-22 January on the Iranian nuclear programme.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): I am pleased to announce Dr Ian Leigh's appointment as Deputy Immigration Services Commissioner for the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). The appointment has been made in accordance with schedule 5 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, and therefore this is a five-year appointment. Dr Leigh will take up the post on 7 February 2011.

Dr Leigh is a chartered physicist and a fellow of the Institute of Physics. He has extensive experience of working in the public sector having spent several years employed as a senior civil servant and several years in a senior role in an NDPB. Dr Leigh was a deputy director in the Department of Trade and Industry with responsibility for managing the National Physical Laboratory's operating contract. In 2001 he was appointed as managing director and director of policy for Postwatch, an executive NDPB dealing with all consumer issues in the postal sector. Since 2008, Dr Leigh has been working as a consultant to the Irish Commission for Communications Regulation.

The appointment of a Deputy Commissioner to replace the previous post holder has been made with due consideration of the uncertain future of the OISC. The Cabinet Office announcement of reform to public bodies listed the OISC as one where future options, including a possible merger, are under consideration. A Deputy Commissioner remains a requirement for the current operation of the OISC and as any changes will take time to be considered and thereafter implemented, it is the case that substantial work at a managerial level will be required within the OISC.

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Lord Carlile's Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): I am pleased to say that in accordance with section 14(3), 14(4) and 14(5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC has completed the report on the operation of the Act in 2010, which will be laid before the House today. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

IPSA (First Year Review)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Sir George Young): The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority is currently conducting its first year review of the parliamentary expenses scheme. IPSA launched a formal process for public consultation on 5 January 2011.

Under the Parliamentary Standards Act (2009), the Leader of the House is a statutory consultee of the scheme. Today, I am publishing the evidence that I am submitting to IPSA and I have placed copies in the Library of the House, in the Vote Office for Members and on the Leader's website: www.commonsleader.gov.uk.

Although I am responding as a statutory consultee, it has not been my intention to respond on behalf of the House. I understand that party groups and individual MPs may be sending in separate submissions.

As I have set out in my evidence, I believe there are five key principles that should guide the regime for Members' expenses. They are:

> *Independence*—Members should not determine their own allowances.
>
> *Transparency*—Public confidence must be maintained through transparent rules and publication of expenses data.
>
> *Professionalism*—Members should be properly resourced so that they can effectively represent their constituents and perform their parliamentary duties.
>
> *Fitness for Purpose*—Members from all backgrounds must be able to provide an equal service to their constituents; the system should not deter candidates from less affluent backgrounds from becoming or remaining Members of Parliament, nor adversely affect family life.
>
> *Cost-effectiveness*—The system should minimise the cost to the taxpayer, both by limiting the amount Members may claim to what is absolutely necessary and by offering simple, cost-effective administration.

The public consultation closes on 11 February and I would encourage all Members who wish to raise issues with IPSA to do so before the end of the consultation period, so that IPSA is able to take account of the broadest range of views from within the House.

TRANSPORT

Drivers (Medical Standards)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mike Penning): The Department for Transport has today published a consultation on proposals for changes to the driver medical standards on eyesight, epilepsy and diabetes.

The current driver licensing rules in the UK are based on the second European Council directive on driving licences (91/439/EEC). The minimum medical standards for the issue of driving licences are detailed in annex III of the second directive and the forthcoming third European directive on driving licences. Officials and medical experts from across the European Union reviewed the standards for eyesight, diabetes and epilepsy. Following receipt of their reports to the European Commission, amendments to the standards were adopted in 2009 in directives 2009/112/EC and 2009/113/EC, and came into force 15 September 2010.

The Secretary of State's experts on the honorary medical advisory panels for eyesight, diabetes and neurology have considered the medical directives and how these compare with existing UK standards. For the most part the medical directives relax, or more precisely define, existing EU minimum medical standards. While UK standards must be at least at the level of a minimum standard we are not required by EU law to relax existing domestic standards where these are higher than the EU standards. However, where the panel has advised that a relaxation is consistent with road safety we are recommending that this is adopted. The implementation of these revised standards is the basis of the consultation.

The consultation period will run until 28 April 2011. Copies of the consultation document have been placed on the Library of the House. Further copies are available on the DFT and DVLA websites at www.dft.gov.uk or www.dvla.gov.uk. Depending on comments received and the Department's response, amendment for any change will be made to regulations or guidance issued to medical practitioners.

ATOL Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mrs Theresa Villiers): I am today announcing the Government's "in principle" decision to reform the air travel organisers' licensing (ATOL) scheme to improve clarity for consumers about its coverage and also to put the scheme's finances back on a sustainable basis. There will be a full consultation on the details of the proposed reforms.

The ATOL scheme, operated by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), was introduced in the 1970s to provide financial protection for the purchase of package holidays in the event of travel company insolvency. Affected passengers are entitled to a full refund if they are yet to travel, or repatriation after completing their holiday if they have already reached their destination.

However, as a result of new ways of selling holidays and a recent Court ruling, the scheme no longer completely fulfils its intended purpose: the proportion of holidays with ATOL protection has fallen, and it can be difficult for consumers and the travel industry to know which holidays are protected and which are not. The proposed reforms will make it easier for everyone to understand which holidays are covered, and will restore protection to what looks like a package holiday but now falls outside the legal definition.

The Air Travel Trust Fund (the fund) provides the money for refunds and repatriation costs when a travel company becomes insolvent. For historic reasons the fund had no income for a number of years. As a result of this legacy, combined with travel company failures in 2008 and 2010, the fund's deficit has increased significantly. Until it is back in surplus, it can only meet its obligations because of a Government guarantee, currently £42 million, in support of commercial borrowing facilities. Reform is needed to secure the sustainability of the fund so it can continue to provide financial protection for consumers, while reducing and eventually eliminating the exposure to taxpayers. It is envisaged that the ATOL protection contribution (APC) paid into the fund will remain at £2.50 per holiday sale until the fund is restored to health.

The last Government consulted on reforming the ATOL scheme in December 2009, and the coalition has continued work on developing these important reforms. In outline the proposed reforms would:

> Create a new category of "flight plus" holiday in ATOL. This would cover holidays including a flight where the various elements were purchased within a specified short time period, and so look similar to package holidays, but are not packages as currently legally defined in the UK. New secondary legislation would be required to do this.
>
> Ensure that where businesses sell holidays that look like packages, but where the travel agent has arranged matters so they are acting as an "agent for the customer" and so remain outside of ATOL, consumers are made fully aware of this, so that they can make an informed decision about their purchase. We are looking at using the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 to enforce this measure.
>
> Replace the current arrangements with clearer, standardised information for consumers that their holiday or flight is ATOL protected. The CAA has already begun discussions with the industry about a recognised document, the ATOL certificate, that would be both proportionate and fit for purpose. This can be done by CAA using its existing powers.

A consultation on the details of the proposals, including draft secondary legislation, is planned for the spring, with the aim of implementation by late 2011 or early 2012.

I believe there may also be a case for new primary legislation to address other issues in the ATOL scheme and will be considering that further in the course of this year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Contracted-Out Rebate Rates (Quinquennial Review)

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Later today the Government will publish an order to set the contracted-out rebate rate for salary-related pension schemes for the tax years 2012-13 to 2017-18. The new rate will be 4.8% and will be shared in the following way: 3.4% for employers (secondary class 1 contributions) and 1.4% for employees (primary class 1 contributions).

Rebate rates for members of contracted-out pension schemes are reviewed at intervals of up to five years. It has been five years since the last review. The rebate is expected to reflect the cost of providing the benefits given up by individuals contracted out of the additional state pension.

The Government Actuary has produced a report presenting three possible approaches to setting the rate. The Government have adopted the rate that was calculated using the Government Actuary's "best estimate" approach.

The full report of the Government Actuary will be published alongside the order, as will a report on the order by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in accordance with sections 42(1), 42B(1) and 45A(1) of the Pensions Act 1993.

WALES

Proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Highways and Transport) Order 2011

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): I would like to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Highways and Transport) Order 2011 was laid on 3 February, as Command Paper Cm 7999. Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and are also available from the Library. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request that they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Education Bill: Framework Powers Explanatory Memorandum

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mrs Cheryl Gillan): I am pleased to inform the House that the explanatory memorandum explaining the Government's proposal for framework powers in the Education Bill are available in the Vote Office, Library and the Printed Paper Office, and on the Wales Office website: (www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 4 February 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Local Better Regulation Office

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): I am today announcing that, following a review of the Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) and its functions, a number of changes are proposed to the way in which the functions it performs are carried out.

It is proposed that the LBRO in its current form should be abolished, but that its most important functions will be transferred to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. These will be performed by a new organisation within the Department, drawing on the expertise of LBRO's staff and work to date.

Its functions in directly promoting service improvement in local authority regulatory services will not be retained.

The proposals mean the primary authority scheme and work to simplify the regulatory system, providing real benefits for businesses will continue but will now be overseen by a new streamlined organisation that will form a part of the Department.

Local enterprise partnerships are already bringing business and civic leaders together across natural economic areas to set a strong local economic lead. Good local regulatory services can play an important role in securing growth, giving businesses the confidence and expert advice that they need to grow, and regulatory improvement needs to be at the heart of these local strategies.

The new organisation will play an active part in supporting partnerships: helping them set a clear lead in tackling red tape, disseminating and promoting good, business-friendly practice of all kinds, including the primary authority scheme.

The new organisation will have special governance arrangements which mean it will retain the operational independence and technical expertise that have been important to LBRO's role, ensuring that it is still relevant to businesses and regulators. The new organisation will focus on ensuring that there is better enforcement of regulations and will work closely with the Better Regulation Executive and Regulatory Policy Committee to reduce the burdens on business in the most cost-effective way.

The change forms part of a wider transformation in the system of regulatory enforcement. The Government are committed to transforming the way in which regulation is enforced—making sure that the actions of regulators support business growth and other worthwhile social activities.

The proposals outlined today will be subject to parliamentary approval and there will be consultation on these plans in spring 2011.

Ministerial Correction

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): During Wednesday's Opposition day debate, on the work of my Department, I said—column 873—that private sector business investment is 3.73% up on last year's performance. In fact investment, according to the latest figure[1] increased by 3.1% over the previous quarter.

[1] Quarter three—2010

PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Interests

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): In line with the commitment in the Ministerial Code, I have today published a list of Ministers' interests. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Local Major Transport Scheme

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): On 26 October, following the announcement of the conclusions of the spending review, I made a statement to the House outlining our plans for investing over £1.5 billion over the next four years on major capital transport schemes promoted by local authorities. I also set out a process for deciding which schemes would receive funding and published details in a document entitled "Investment in Local Major Transport Schemes". I am today announcing the first set of decisions in line with the process as set out.

First, we announced in October a pool of 10 local authority schemes with very high value for money or large local contributions that we wished to support. However we challenged the local authority promoters to reduce the cost to the Exchequer and to submit revised funding bids.

I am pleased to say that through this process we have saved £45.5 million on these schemes—14% of the previously approved sums and I am pleased to confirm funding for the following schemes:

Leeds Station Southern Access: Improving pedestrian access to Leeds station (£12.4 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £ 14.4 million)

Midland Metro Extension: Extending Midland metro tram line through Birmingham city centre (£75.4 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £ 129.2 million)

Mansfield Public Transport Interchange: A new bus station and associated transport improvements in Mansfield (£7.2 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £8.9 million)

Thornton to Switch Island Link: A new single carriageway road which will take traffic away from communities in Sefton (£14.5 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £18.6 million)

> Ipswich Fit for the 21st Century: An integrated package of sustainable transport improvements in Ipswich (£18.3 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £21.5 million)
>
> East of Exeter: Improvements to M5 J29, east of Exeter, providing access to new housing and employment areas (£10.4 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £14.4 million)
>
> Heysham to M6 Link Road: A bypass to the north of Lancaster, connecting Heysham to the M6 (£110.9 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £123.3 million)
>
> A57 MI to Todwick Crossroads: Improvements on the A57 east of MI J31, near Todwick (£11.8 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £14.7 million)
>
> Taunton Northern Inner Distributor Road: A new road in Taunton to provide additional cross-town capacity and access to areas of brownfield land (£15.2 million DFT contribution towards a total cost of £21.7 million)

These schemes will now be able to progress towards construction subject to securing any remaining necessary planning and statutory approvals and subject to confirmation of value for money where material changes have been proposed.

For the remaining scheme in the supported pool, the Mersey Gateway bridge, we are carefully considering a funding proposal from the promoters, Halton borough council. As this is the largest scheme with the most complex funding proposal of any scheme in the supported pool, we are not able to announce final funding arrangements at this point but will do so as soon as possible.

I also announced in October a development pool of 22 schemes on which funding decisions would be made by the end of 2011, and a pre-qualification pool of 34 schemes on which we would make an earlier decision on which should join the development pool.

I can today announce the promotion to the development pool of 23 schemes from the pre-qualification pool, making an expanded development pool of 45 schemes, based on their potential to offer value for money, their ability and willingness to offer savings to the DFT and, in the case of five structural maintenance schemes, the potential importance of the work to the integrity of the existing road network. The local authority promoters of these 23 schemes have indicated a potential to reduce the call on DFT funds that would amount to an overall saving of 42% on the total of the previously requested sums. I am encouraged by this and I look forward to working with the promoters of these and the existing development pool schemes to try to achieve further savings when the promoters of all schemes in the pool submit their best and final funding bids by September 2011.

As we set out in October, we do not expect that all schemes in the development pool will be funded. We will scrutinise the business case for each scheme very carefully and challenge promoters to demonstrate high value for money as well as significant savings on cost. We will also look at a range of other criteria, including deliverability and strategic fit, and will seek the views of interested parties including, where appropriate, local enterprise partnerships. The process remains competitive and those schemes that do not reach an acceptable standard will not be funded.

In respect of the schemes from the pre-qualification pool not selected for the development pool, promoters will need to consider their options. Beyond this spending review period my intention remains that we should move to a more devolved funding framework for major schemes with local enterprise partnerships and others. I will develop this framework further during 2011.

It may be that for some of these schemes there remains a reasonable prospect of funding through this route or with alternative funding sources. But there also needs to be realism. I would urge promoters of the non-selected schemes to consider, in consultation with the business community and local residents, whether further investment in the development of these schemes would be in the best interests of local council tax payers.

This Government are committed to transparency in decision making. I have placed on the DFT website a written document, as an update to "Investment in Local Major Transport Schemes", which sets out the details of these scheme approval decisions and explains the rationale on which they have been based. The document also includes the benefit-to-cost ratios and net present values, as estimated in the spending review, of supported pool and original development pool schemes. I will also place on the DFT website the best and final funding bids and expressions of interest that have been submitted by the local authority promoters.

Petition

Tuesday 25 January 2011

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Bus Fares (Bristol, Bath and surrounding areas)

The Petition of Laura Ann Friend, Adam Heard and residents of South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset, and Bristol,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the high cost of bus fares for travellers needing to use services that extend beyond the boundaries of the cities of Bath and Bristol; notes that the costs of travel can be substantial where special city day fares are not available; and further notes that reducing bus fares can act as a means of reducing traffic pollution, easing congestion, promoting healthy lifestyles and even reducing the cost of living in these difficult economic times.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take all possible steps to reduce bus fares in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and the surrounding areas.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Chris Skidmore, Official Report,* 21 December 2010; Vol. 520, c. 10P.]

[P000874]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Government do not control the fare prices of local bus services, which are generally provided by commercial bus operators, in a market environment, or procured by Local Transport Authorities as "tendered services".

Local Transport Authorities can impose a limit on fares upon an area as part of a statutory Quality Partnership Scheme. Such a proposal is currently being proposed by Bath and North East Somerset Council for the route corridor between Bath and Midsomer Norton via Odd Down, Dunkerton, Peasedown St John, Radstock and Westfield. The proposals would see fares capped in line with bus industry costs. This is part of the Greater Bristol Bus Network improvement scheme, which includes a further nine route corridors. The lead authorities for these route corridors intend to consult on similar arrangements.

The Government encourage Local Transport Authorities and commercial bus operators to work together to ensure that bus services meet the expectations of the travelling public.

Petition

Monday 31 January 2011

OBSERVATIONS

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Feed-In Tariffs

The Petition of Savile Burdett, of Axminster, Devon,

Declares that the Petitioner believes that the present regulations concerning Feed-in Tariffs for photo voltaic generated energy in homes are unfair, reward richer rather than poorer people and deter new ideas and technical development; that Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) were introduced by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to start on 1 April 2010; that these are payments for various energy saving systems including photo voltaic solar generated electricity (pv solar); that payments are made to the householder, to encourage energy saving and consequential reduction of carbon emissions and additionally to encourage the growth of the industry; that, provided the system is installed to certain preset standards by MCS certified companies, specified payments are made for each unit of electricity generated; that additionally, when more is generated than is needed by the householder at the time, an export tariff is paid for electricity exported to the Grid; notes that if, however, the system is not installed by MCS certificated companies it will not be eligible to receive the FIT generation tariff or the guaranteed FIT export tariff; notes that the Petitioner believes that there are a number of disadvantages to this system; that the current regulations give some degree of monopoly power to certain companies, by in effect charging a householder who chooses to forgo the MCS certificate guarantees and either have the system installed by a contractor whom he trusts, but who is not MCS certified, or to do the work himself, which may be cheaper; notes that householders who install their own equipment or use a contractor who is not MCS certified receive no payment for surplus electricity generated and supplied to the Grid; and further notes that the current regulations may deter development, by discouraging developers from installing and testing new technologies.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons asks the Secretary of State to amend existing legislation during November 2010 so that photo voltaic solar collector systems may be installed by any householder who believes himself competent, alone or with the assistance of others whom he chooses, provided the system is inspected for electrical safety by his Local Authority or by the local electricity Supply Authority.

And the Petitioner remains, etc.—*[Presented by Neil Parish, Official Report,* 20 December 2010; Vol. 520, c. 1283 .]

[P000871]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:

Feed In Tariffs were launched in April 2010 to incentivise the deployment of small scale low carbon electricity generation and to encourage wider participation of those who would not have traditionally engaged with the electricity market to now do so; namely individuals, householders, organisations, businesses and communities. Generators of wind, solar PV, hydro and micro CHP installation of up to 50kW must use the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) or an equivalent scheme to be eligible for FITs.

There are a number of reasons for requiring MCS (or an equivalent scheme accredited under EN45011) for FITs accreditation, primarily fraud prevention. The MCS requirement provides an assurance that the equipment is actually installed and is indeed generating low-carbon electricity of the type for which it is being rewarded. In the absence of MCS or an equivalent certification scheme, the only way to get this assurance would be to have every installation independently inspected by a third party which would be more expensive, particularly given the number of individual FITs generators that are expected.

Consumer protection is another key consideration. Using the industry-led MCS provides independent affirmation and legitimacy to small-scale onsite energy installations and gives assurances about the likely quality, durability and performance of installations.

Petition

Tuesday 1 February 2011

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House on Monday 31 January but not read on the Floor

Branfil Primary School (Upminster)

The Humble Petition of parents of pupils at Branfil Primary School (Upminster),

Sheweth, that the Petitioners believe that there is an urgent need to rebuild Branfil Primary School; notes that parts of the school have needed to close on many occasions, following the recent flooding of the Foundation Stage building, and other failings of services over the years; that children and teachers are missing out on important schooling, or that schooling is being compromised, by the fact that these facilities are not fit for purpose and need to be rebuilt this year; and that the petitioners believe that this is an embarrassment and that it is not acceptable for these buildings to be used for another winter.

Sheweth, that prefabs were originally constructed as temporary measures, but they are still standing 60 years on; that these structures may be suitable for garage or shed purposes, but they are not suitable for educational needs; that all classrooms are extremely cold throughout the winter, as there is no insulation; that the toilets are very cold and exposed to the elements all year round, because the doors are kept open because they are too heavy and dangerous for the children to use; that heating failures and burst pipes have closed the school, and seem to be a usual winter occurrence; that corridors are becoming wet and dangerous in wet periods, which is a risk to pregnant teachers; that there is asbestos present in the roofing material and perhaps in other areas, which is a health hazard; that the cost of heating and repairing the building must be very high over the long term; and notes that these are only a few of the health and safety and cost issues which should be taken seriously.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that Branfil Primary School is rebuilt.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Angela Watkinson.]*

[P000883]

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 24 January 2011

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department holds on the number of subcontracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34812]

Mr Swire: There are no subcontracted staff based in London working in my Department.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35795]

David Mundell: It is Scotland Office policy that all communications should be written in plain English.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department holds on the number of sub contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34810]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not hold any pay information relating to sub contracted staff.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35390]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State recently appointed Mrs Paula Sharp as a member of the Boundary Commission for Scotland from 1 January 2011 for a period of four years. He also re-appointed an existing Commissioner, Mr Ken McDonald, from 7 June 2011 for a further four years.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35414]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State appointed a new Commissioner to the Boundary Commission for Scotland from 1 January 2011 for a period of four years. He also re-appointed an existing Commissioner for a further four years from 7 June 2011. Commissioners are remunerated at £505.50 per day.

Employment Rights: Students

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Universities Scotland on the effects in Scotland of the Government's proposals on employment rights for *(a)* work placements within degree programmes and *(b)* employment between periods of undergraduate and postgraduate study. [34866]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland discussed the Government's consultation on the student immigration system with the convenor of Universities Scotland in December.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with colleges in Scotland on the effects of the Government's immigration policy on the further education sector in Scotland. [34864]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland met representatives from Scotland's Colleges' principals' convention earlier this month and discussed a range of issues important to the further education sector, including the Government's consultation on student immigration.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with representatives of the further and higher education sector in Scotland on the effects of the Government's immigration policy on *(a)* numbers of students and *(b)* economic and employment in Scotland. [34867]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland has had a number of discussions with the Scottish further and higher education sector about the Government's immigration policy. Most recently, he discussed the Government's proposals on student immigration with representatives from Scotland's Colleges' principals' convention earlier this month, and with the convenor of Universities Scotland in December.

Low Incomes

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the provision of financial assistance to motorists on low incomes in urban areas of Scotland following the increase in the level of value added tax and fuel duty. [35360]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on a range of issues. The tax and benefits system as announced in the Budget provides a range of support to people on low incomes, including the £1,000 increase in the income allowance, whether or not they own a car.

Refinery and Petro-Chemical Operations

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the involvement of Petrochina in the refinery and petro-chemical operations at Grangemouth. [35055]

David Mundell: The arrangement between Ineos and Petrochina is a commercial matter for the companies themselves. My officials kept me in touch with developments throughout the process.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Greater London

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Mayor of London on the Air Quality Strategy for London. [35189]

Richard Benyon: The Secretary of State for the Environment met the Mayor of London most recently on 27 July 2010, to talk about a number of issues including waste, water supply and air quality.

There have also been, and continue to be, frequent meetings between officials in DEFRA, and officials in the Greater London authority, and Transport for London, to discuss the Mayor's Air Quality Strategy.

Departmental Manpower

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* total and *(b)* annual average salary was of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in her Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [34636]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is detailed as follows:

Core DEFRA, Animal Health (AH) and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

Core DEFRA, Animal Health and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate operate the same pay and conditions and, therefore, the information has been merged.

(a) The total (annualised) salary of those staff on fixed-term appointments (FTA) within core DEFRA, AH and VMD, as at 31 December 2010, is within £1,731,797.

(b) The average salary of FTAs within core DEFRA, AH and VMD as at 31 December 2010 is £36,846.74.

The Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)

(a) The total (annualised) salary of those staff on fixed-term appointments (FTA) within CEFAS, as at 31 December 2010, is £704,574.

(b) The average salary of FTAs within CEFAS as at 31 December 2010 is £20,130.69.

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)

(a) The total (annualised) salary paid to fixed-term appointments (FTA) within Fera as at 31 December 2010 is £576,994.

(b) The average salary of FTAs within Fera as at 31 December 2010 is £21,090.

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

(a) The total (annualised) salary paid to fixed-term appointments (FTA) within the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) as at 1 January 2011 is £1,222,704.

(b) The average salary of FTAs within RPA as at 1 January 2011 is £25,473.

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)

(a) The total (annualised) salary of those staff on fixed-term appointments (FTA) within VLA, as at 31 December 2010, is £652,702.

(b) The average salary of FTAs within VLA as at 31 December 2010 is £24,174.15.

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed on fixed-term contracts in her Department; and what the job title of each is. [34653]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is detailed as follows:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Core DEFRA)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within Core DEFRA, as at 31 December 2010 was 22.

(b) The job title of each FTA within DEFRA, as at 31 December 2010 is as follows:

Debt Recovery Officer
Administrative Assistant
Chief Executive Officer—Shared Services
Head of Business Effectiveness—Shared Services
Head of Service Delivery and System and Supplier Management—Shared Services
Economic Adviser
Administrative Officer
Assistant Economist
Survey Support Officer (x5)
Web Developer
Chief Scientific Adviser
Economist on Waste Economics
Assistant Statistician
Legal Trainee
Lawyer
Policy Adviser
Work Force Planning, Leadership and Talent
Data Sharing Programme Director

Animal Health (AH)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within AH, as at 31 December 2010 was 25.

(b) The job title of each FTA within AH, as at 31 December 2010 is as follows:

Welsh Language Translator
Chief Executive
Project Manager (x3)
Director Corporate Services and Chief Information Officer
Finance and Administration AO
Veterinary Inspector (x3)
Admin Officer (x5)
Admin Officer—TB (x4)
Admin Officer—Notifiable disease (x2)
Admin Assistant—tracings
Admin Assistant (x2)
Admin Officer—customer contact

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within VMD, as at 31 December 2010 was 0 (zero).

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within CEFAS, as at 31 December 2010 was 35.

(b) The job title of each FTA within CEFAS, as at 31 December 2010 is as follows:

Administrative Support Officer
Analytical Chemist (x2)
Aquatic Product Evaluation Manager
Assistant Analytical Chemist (x2)
Assistant Fisheries Observer (x2)
Assistant Shellfish Hygiene Data Officer
BEEMS Administrator
Benthos Laboratory Assistant
Business and Contracts Manager
Ecosystems Modeller (x3)
Environmental Scientist
Finance and Resources Administrator
Fisheries Researcher
Helpdesk Analyst
IT Systems Manager
Laboratory Support Technician
Laboratory Technician
Marine Biologist
Marine Ecologist (x2)
Microbiologist
Plankton Taxonomist (x3)
Recruitment Officer
Research Contracts Manager (x2)
Research Programme Manager (x2)
Scientist

Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within Fera, as at 31 December 2010 was 30.

(b) The job title of each FTA within Fera, as at 31 December 2010 is as follows:

Account Assistant
Account Manager
Admin Assistant
Agricultural Surveyor
Analytical Chemist
Assistant Diagnostician (x2)
Assistant Ornithologist (x3)
Ecologist
Environmental Scientist
Environmental Statistician
Field Ecologist
Footpath Warden
Laboratory and Apiary Technician
Order Processing Administrator
Plant Health Support Team Administrator (x2)
Principal Apiarist
Resourcing Team Leader
Ruddy Duck Control Officer (x2)
Scientific Officer
Seasonal Bee Inspector (x3)
Senior Management Accountant (x2)
Veterinary Adviser

Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within RPA, as at 1 January 2011, was 4.

(b) The job title of each FTA within RPA, as at 1 January 2011 is as follows:

Human Resources Business Partner (HRBP) Change Agent
Programmes and Projects Management Purchase Order (PO) User
Service Desk Analyst
Team Leader PO User

Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)

(a) The number of fixed term appointments (FTA) within VLA, as at 31 December 2010 was 27.

(b) The job title of each FTA within VLA, as at 31 December 2010 is as follows:

Pay Band C (Scientist) (x2)
Pay Band C (Veterinarian) (x2)
Pay Band D (Scientist) (x4)
Pay Band D (Administrator) (x2)
Pay Band D (Librarian)
Pay Band E (Scientist) (x4)
Pay Band F (Scientist) (x4)
Pay Band G (Administrator) (x6)
Pay Band G (Laboratory Attendant) (x2)

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of sub contracted staff servicing her Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34819]

Richard Benyon: The Department does not hold central records of the rates paid to sub contracted staff by their contracting agencies and to collate these would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department contracts with the agency to pay an agreed total fee which would include the agency margin for their costs/profit.

The rate paid to sub contracted staff by the agencies employed by the Department would be a matter between the person and their relevant agency.

Environment Agency: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many field flood engineers the Environment Agency employed in each of the last three years. [34879]

Richard Benyon: Latest available data from an exercise carried out in 2009 estimated that 230 field flood engineers were employed at the time. This is not expected to be subject to significant annual variation. The Environment Agency does not collate this information on an annual basis.

Fisheries: Quotas

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons unused cod quota held by produce organisations is not reallocated to the under 10-metre fleet in area VIID. [35010]

Richard Benyon: There are several reasons why the in-year reallocation of unused quota is not currently undertaken, eg quota holders may be retaining their quota to fish later in the year, or to use as swap currency to acquire different quota. The prospect of such reallocation can encourage a race to fish, which could mean that fish is targeted out of season, thus increasing effort and discards of other stocks. Such reallocation may also impact on prices due to a surplus of fish on the market. Furthermore, there is also a risk of 'ghost' fishing in order to secure ongoing access and prevent reallocation—something that is difficult to enforce against.

I recognise the difficulties currently facing the under 10-metre fleet, and that relying on quota swaps and gifts is not sustainable. I am committed to reform of the fisheries management arrangements, and a consultation is due to be launched in the spring, including a further look at the issue of quota uptake and distribution. In the meantime, discussions continue with producer organisations to consider what support they can offer the under 10-metre fleet in the short-term.

Flood Control: North West

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to allocate funding for flood defences to *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency in (i) 2011, (ii) 2012 and (iii) 2013. [35157]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The indicative funding allocation proposals for flood and coastal erosion risk management projects for 2011-12 are currently subject to discussion between the Environment Agency and its regional flood defence committees.

Final decisions on the allocation of 2011-12 funds to regional committees will be made in February or March by the Environment Agency's board, and decisions on the programmes of schemes to be delivered next year will be made by the committees in April.

Decisions on funding for future years will depend on the outcome of DEFRA's "Future funding for Flood and Coast Erosion Risk Management" consultation.

Redundancy

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in her Department have been made redundant since May 2010. [34654]

Richard Benyon: Fewer than five members of staff in DEFRA have been made redundant since May 2010. It is DEFRA's policy for reasons of confidentiality not to release full details relating to numbers of staff fewer than five where to do so might lead to the identification of individual cases.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Attorney-General what information the Law Officers' Departments hold on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing their Departments who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34827]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers' Departments do not stipulate that sub-contracted staff must be paid the equivalent or above the London living wage on any of its contracts, although there would be an expectation that all would be paid at least the national minimum wage. The Attorney-General's office has identified five sub-contracted staff who are paid at a rate below the London living wage.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments either do not directly employ any sub-contracted staff or do not hold details of rates paid to individuals by agencies or firms for sub-contracted services, such information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Rape: Offences Against The Administration of Justice

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010 *Official Report,* column 447W, to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne North, on rape: offences against the administration of justice, if he will consider the merits of collecting data on the number of women prosecuted for *(a)* perverting the course of justice, *(b)* perjury and *(c)* wasting police time following the withdrawal of a complaint of rape or domestic violence. [35169]

The Attorney-General: The official crime statistics and the collection of data to support them is a matter for the Ministry of Justice. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) data systems are not capable of capturing such information.

However, in view of public interest in these offences and how they are prosecuted, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) commissioned a one-off survey of all 42 CPS areas to gain a snapshot of the number of prosecutions of complainants who had made allegations of rape, for perverting or attempting to pervert the course of public justice. The survey is informing the action the CPS is taking to address public concerns in this area.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Malaria

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the areas of Burma which have the highest rates of malaria. [35833]

Mr Duncan: According to the World Health Organisation, malaria is endemic in 284 of the 325 townships in Burma. An estimated 68% of Burma's population is at a risk of contracting the disease, the most vulnerable being those who work in logging, plantation agriculture and the construction of roads and dams. The areas with the highest rates of transmission of malaria are in hilly and forested border areas.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the number of sub contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34814]

Mr Duncan: There are currently eight full-time and 10 part-time staff employed by MITIE to work in the Department for International Development's (DFID's) London headquarters, who are paid below the London living wage.

Food Aid

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to provide for research on *(a)* the sustainability of global food supply chains and *(b)* food security in each of the next four financial years. [34794]

Mr Duncan: Decisions on future funding to agricultural research have not been finalised. Future funding will be decided upon following the conclusion of the ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid reviews.

Sudan: Asylum

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department plans to provide to refugees in south Sudan. [34871]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), the Department for International Development (DFID) is providing support to UN agencies, such as the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), to monitor the situation of refugees entering southern Sudan from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

DFID is also providing assistance via the CHF to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning from the north of the country to southern Sudan. Over the last 11 weeks more than 183,000 IDPs have reached the south from the north. DFID has provided support to a humanitarian contingency fund which goes towards providing food, shelter, cooking utensils, medicines, and emergency water and sanitation for a period of three months. This is delivered by international and national NGOs and the UN. Addressing issues such as the separation of families, particularly children from adults, are also supported by this mechanism. The UK is working with the Government of southern Sudan, the UN and other partners to start to address the longer-term integration and livelihood needs of both the refugees and the returnees.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to support the development of civic society in south Sudan. [34870]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Where possible, UK aid programmes in southern Sudan use local non-government organisations (NGOs) and community based organisations (CBOs) as implementing partners. Where this is the case we provide additional support to strengthen the organisation itself. For example, the DFID-managed multi-donor Basic Services Fund requires international NGOs to guide and mentor local NGOs and CBOs on needs identification, delivery, and implementation, so that they are able to manage larger funds themselves in the future.

I am currently reviewing all DFID's bilateral aid to ensure that it is spent where need is greatest and in ways that will achieve the maximum impact.

World Bank: Food Aid

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his policy is on the operation of the World Bank's Global Food Crisis Response Program. [34741]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government indirectly support the Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP) through our core contribution to the World Bank Group. The UK currently has no plans to provide funding directly to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the GFRP. The UK continues to provide support for food security and agriculture in developing countries through other multilateral agencies and the Department for International Development's country programmes.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has given to the World Bank's Global Food Crisis Response Program in the last two financial years. [34742]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has not provided any funding to the World Bank's Group's Global Food Crisis Response Program (GFRP), other than indirectly through our core contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association which co-funds the GFRP.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to provide open access to broadband providers to networks established in the high speed-broadband pilot areas. [34606]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: Broadband Delivery UK is in the process of designing the models for commercial deployment of broadband with public support in commercially challenging areas, which includes the selected pilot sites.

Procurements will be under EU procurement rules, which require access obligation when public money is invested.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects on UK competitiveness of the change in the target date for universal broadband service from 2012 to 2015. [34872]

Mr Vaizey: The Government's approach to broadband is to drive the roll-out of superfast broadband to as much of the country as possible and to deliver at least a decent level of broadband access to virtually everybody as part of that commitment. That approach is underpinned by the work that BDUK—Broadband Delivery UK—conducted over summer 2010 examining the choice of cost effective solutions available to provide a minimum level of coverage to all premises without access to at least 2 MBps. Among the conclusions of that exercise was that a universal service commitment should not be seen as separate from the superfast broadband objective, but rather an integral part of pushing next generation networks deep into rural Britain. The £530 million allocated to support broadband rollout up to 2015 will help the UK achieve its aim of having the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to introduce a second round of broadband pilots. [34989]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced on 6 December that the next £50 million of the £530 million allocated to support broadband rollout would be made available early in 2011. Broadband Delivery UK will be working with local authorities throughout the UK to give them guidance on how to apply for the next round of broadband projects. We expect to invite bids from April 2011 and to announce the successful projects in May 2011.

Broadband Delivery UK

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether Broadband Delivery UK has issued tender documentation in respect of the four high speed broadband pilot areas. [34605]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* To date no tender documents have been issued.

Broadband: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to support the four high-speed broadband pilots. [34494]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* The precise amount of funding will depend on the procurement for each project but we expect to allocate between £5 million to £10 million to each pilot project.

Broadband: West Lothian

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 588-89W, on broadband: Scotland, by what date he expects the West Lothian local authority area to begin to benefit from greater availability of superfast broadband. [34792]

Mr Vaizey: Parts of West Lothian already have market-led access to superfast broadband—BT's Livingston Station exchange has been enabled to receive its superfast broadband product and Virgin Media's services are also available in the area.

The Government's £530 million of support for broadband roll-out is targeted at those areas—predominantly rural and remote—that will not be served by the market in a reasonable timeframe. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced that the next £50 million of the support for broadband roll-out will be available to support projects from 2011—with bids expected to be invited in April 2011.

Cricket: Television

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on making future home Ashes test matches available on free-to-air television. [34775]

Mr Vaizey: In a ministerial statement to Parliament on 21 July 2010, the Government announced their decision to postpone the previous Administration's review of free-to-air listed events but with a commitment to review the position more fully in 2013 following the completion of digital switchover in 2012. The current list of events will remain in force.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34587]

John Penrose: The Department's policy on *(a)* the space provided per employee is to meet the Government's 10m^2 per full-time equivalent (FTE) workplace standard and on *(b)* home working is to encourage all forms of flexible working patterns including home working where this can cost-effectively deliver against business needs. The Department's policy on *(c)* hot desking was to fully implement it on 29 March 2010 at a ratio of 10 staff to eight desks and the average space per employee is 10.5m^2 per FTE.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to extend the deadline for digital radio switchover. [34887]

Mr Vaizey: No deadline for digital radio switchover has been set. A decision to set a date will be only be made once the listening and coverage criteria have been satisfied.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to assist *(a)* elderly people and *(b)* people on lower incomes with the transition from analogue to digital television in 2012. [34657]

Mr Vaizey: The Government and the BBC have set up the Digital Switchover Help Scheme (DSHS) to offer those 75 or over, disabled and visually impaired people and care home residents practical help to make the switch to digital television on one of their sets.

We estimate that over 7 million households will be eligible for help through the switchover period.

By January 2011, DSHS had mailed nearly 4 million people and completed 430,000 installations and deliveries.

Participating in the scheme costs a subsidised £40. However, help is available free of charge where the eligible person is also in receipt of certain income related benefits.

The help scheme is rolled out in each TV region as switchover approaches and every eligible person in that region is contacted directly by post in the run up to switchover.

The help scheme will:

- provide easy-to-use equipment that suits a person's needs;
- help with installing equipment;
- fit a new dish or aerial, where they can, if it is needed to make the new equipment work;
- give people an easy-to-understand demonstration of how everything works;
- provide a free telephone support service and a comprehensive network of trained and accredited installers that will be able to deal with any queries about installation or use; and
- develop links with local charities and voluntary groups to identify ways in which they can help support aspects of the Help Scheme.

The scheme is funded through £603 million ring-fenced within the BBC's licence fee income over the period of switchover.

HMS Victory 1744

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 387W on HMS Victory 1744, what steps he has taken to monitor and protect the wreck site of HMS Victory pending the publication of the joint response. [35294]

John Penrose: The wreck is that of a sovereign immune state vessel, which means that no intrusive action may be taken without the express consent of Her Majesty's Government.

Libraries

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many libraries offer reading groups for young families; and if he will make a statement. [34951]

Mr Vaizey: This information is not held by the Department. However, according to The Reading Agency (TRA) report "Reading Groups in Libraries: Mapping Survey Findings" (September 2008):

> "the most popular type of reading group linked to libraries is the adult group, of which the survey estimates there are 4,546 in England and Wales. Other popular groups include Chatterbooks groups for children up to 11 years (an estimated 550), teen or young people's groups (238), visually impaired people's groups (134) and women's groups (113)."

Outreach work like this helps libraries to attract new audiences and is a valuable example of how libraries can and do play an important role in delivering priority policies like literacy improvement, support for families, health and happiness development and building community cohesion.

S4C

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons S4C is included in schedule 7 to the Public Bodies Bill; and if he will make a statement. [35222]

Mr Vaizey: In line with planned reforms, S4C is included in schedule 4 of the Public Bodies Bill as this provides for the power to modify S4C's funding arrangements.

S4C is also included in schedule 7 as it lists all public bodies which were subject to the public bodies review and which would require legislation to effect any possible changes in the future. For example, this could include a scenario where further reform is needed to provide for the new partnership arrangements with the BBC Trust.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what legal advice he has received in respect of the inclusion of S4C in schedule 7 to the Public Bodies Bill. [35223]

Mr Vaizey: Departmental lawyers were involved in the drafting of the clauses and schedules of the Public Bodies Bill. The inclusion of S4C in schedule 7 is entirely consistent with the approach followed across the entire programme of public bodies reform which is itself the result of discussions that have taken place between Ministers, lawyers and policy officials in the Cabinet Office and all Government Departments. I have not requested any legal advice on this individual issue as it relates to the wider approach taken in drafting the Bill.

Telecommunications

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of taking steps to assist towns and cities that have a significant number of media businesses to upgrade their communication infrastructure using dark fibre. [34993]

Mr Vaizey: The Government's recently published broadband strategy is aimed at providing a policy and regulatory environment that supports private sector investment in new communications infrastructure.

Television

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what representations he has received on his proposed local television pilot scheme; and if he will make a statement. [34648]

Mr Vaizey: My officials and I have received representations about local television from a wide range of interested parties.

Last week we published our Local Media Action Plan, which invites views from industry and the public, as well as expressions of interest from organisations interested in bidding for a new network channel that will host local TV services. The plan was informed by Nicholas Shott's review of local TV, during which a great many existing and aspirant national and local media groups were consulted.

Theatres: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many theatres are in receipt of Government funding; how much each such theatre received in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [34953]

Mr Vaizey: A copy of a table detailing each theatre in receipt of Government funding, how much each theatre received in 2010-11 and how much they will be awarded in 2011-12 will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Theatres: Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he *(a)* has visited theatres in an official capacity since his appointment and *(b)* has held discussions with theatre management on the effects of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on the theatre industry; and if he will make a statement. [34952]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has visited theatres in an official capacity and has also held discussions with members of the theatre industry on the effects of the comprehensive spending review.

Tourism: Marketing

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what steps his Department is taking to support businesses in the north east following changes to arrangements for Government support for the promotion of tourism; [35496]

(2) what transitional support his Department provides to assist businesses in the north east in respect of changes to Government funding for the promotion of tourism. [35497]

John Penrose: The Government have emphasised the significance of tourism to the economy and continue to work with the industry in promoting the visitor economy. We will invest almost £130 million from 2011-12 to 2014-15 in promoting tourism across the country through VisitBritain and VisitEngland.

Under the new arrangements we are introducing, the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will become leading economic drivers and they will need to work with local tourism bodies and industry in their areas. In addition, VisitEngland has established a transition team to assist destination management organisations and local enterprise partnerships in this process, particularly where RDA resources have been withdrawn. We will also continue to discuss further avenues of support with other Government Departments. The regional growth fund, worth some £1.4 billion, is open for tourism-related applications, and presents an important opportunity for the sector, including in the north-east.

YouView

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the contribution of YouView to television in the UK. [34999]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport met with the chairman of YouView on 9 December 2010.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Australia: Floods

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to assist the Australian Government in their response to the flooding in Queensland; and if he will make a statement. [35381]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on 12 January 2011 and offered UK assistance should it be required.

My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary met their Australian counterparts in Sydney on 18 January 2011. They agreed that the UK will provide experts in flood recovery management and in advanced flood forecasting methods.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited one site of the flooding in Brisbane with his Australian counterpart on 19 January 2011. He praised the Australian authorities' response and emphasised that the UK is keen to do what it can both to help manage the effects of the floods and to help with future planning.

Burma: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the political situation in Burma concerning the Government of Burma and armed groups on ceasefire. [35830]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government continue to receive regular reports of sporadic fighting along the Thai-Burma border. Regime attempts to force ethnic ceasefire groups to join their national Border Guard Force and restrictive elections have further marginalised key ceasefire groups and escalated tensions

We regularly point out to Burma and its neighbours that there is little prospect of lasting peace and stability until the regime pursues a political settlement that takes account of the legitimate aspirations of Burma's ethnic groups. Our Charge d'Affaires in Bangkok raised the issue of refugees fleeing across the Thai-Burma border as a result of recent fighting with the Thai Foreign Minister on 19 January 2011.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the compliance of the government of Burma with UN General Assembly resolutions on Burma. [35831]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The latest UN General Assembly resolution on Burma in November 2010 expressed deep concern at the regime's failure to address calls in previous resolutions to improve the human rights situation. It highlighted the regime's continued violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and stressed that without significant progress the situation would continue to deteriorate.

It is this continued failure by the Burmese regime to respond to international concerns that underpins UK support for the UN special rapporteur's call for the UN to consider a commission of inquiry.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects his Department funds to promote *(a)* democracy and *(b)* human rights in Burma. [35832]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to prioritise the promotion of democratic values and human rights protection in Burma. We have supported a number of projects, inside the country, in Thailand and in the UK, to work towards this aim. Our embassy in Rangoon currently provides funding for three projects in Burma through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's strategic priority fund on human rights and democracy. The projects help to nurture conditions for democratic transition, through supporting civic empowerment and giving people the skills needed to drive change. We work closely with the British Council and Department for International Development to deliver this work.

China: Human Rights

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what issues were discussed at the recent UK-China Human Rights Dialogue; and whether any commitments were given on human rights in Tibet by the Chinese delegation. [35670]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 13-14 January 2011 involved discussions on the full range of human rights issues. This included the rights of detainees, migrant rights, capital punishment, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, China's plans for ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the situation in Tibet and Xinjiang and a number of individual cases. There were also detailed expert discussions on the role of police in criminal trials and the use of minority languages in education.

The Chinese delegation did not give us any commitments on human rights in Tibet.

Departmental Photography

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on photography since May 2010. [34667]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Two Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officers are trained in photography and cover FCO events at no additional cost. The FCO has spent £10,254 since May 2010 on rights to reproduce photographs.

Departmental Video Recordings

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on film production, including the filming of speeches, since May 2010. [34666]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The total cost of film production since May 2010 is approximately £49,776. Over the last nine months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) videos have been viewed around 150,000 times through the FCO's YouTube channels, including films in Arabic and Farsi with over 30,000 YouTube viewings and many more through partner media organisations. The videos communicate UK policy on issues such as the middle east peace process or Iran to an international audience.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and objectives. [34583]

Mr Lidington: I have regular discussions with colleagues on a range of policy issues regarding European economic reform and growth. The Government agree that the EU should undertake serious structural reform and support the wider ambition of the Europe 2020 strategy, and are considering how implementation will be taken forward.

Lebanon: Politics and Government

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [35587]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has said, the collapse of the National Unity Government is an extremely serious development which could have grave implications for Lebanon and for regional stability. The UK has called on all parties to work together for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 29 November and *(b)* 16 December 2010 regarding a constituent, Mrs Lodemore. [35775]

Mr Lidington: The correspondence from my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon and Billericay was received on 5 January 2011. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), replied on 21 January 2011 following his return from overseas.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 29 November and *(b)* 16 December 2010 regarding a constituent, Miss Tizzard. [35837]

Mr Lidington: The correspondence from my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon and Billericay (Mr Baron) was received on 11 January 2011. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt), replied on 21 January 2011 following his return from overseas.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with his *(a)* American and *(b)* Chinese counterpart on the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula; and if he will make a statement. [35909]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed North Korea most recently with the Chinese Government during the visit of Li Keqiang earlier this month. We talk regularly to the US Government in Washington and Seoul on North Korea. We strongly support a process which involves building trust and confidence between North and South Korea with the view of seeing a return to negotiations. All parties in the region have a strong interest in this and we have made clear that we would consider any request to provide practical assistance.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times service personnel have been delayed returning to the UK on rest and recuperation from Afghanistan since January 2010; and what the reasons were for the delay in each case; [34960]

(2) how many times *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel had extended deployments due to the unavailability of air transport to return them from Afghanistan since January 2010. [34961]

Nick Harvey: The information is not held in the format requested.

The reasons for individual travel and for each specific delay are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Delays may occur for a number of reasons and individual taskings could be delayed for more than one reason, including: air traffic control and airspace restrictions; missing theatre arrival slot times; technical and equipment failures; absence of diplomatic clearance; weather; expiry of crew duty hours; passenger and ground handling issues; fuelling; and holding aircraft to facilitate deployment of priority aeromedical taskings.

Delays to flights for personnel leaving theatre do not constitute extended deployments. We do not hold information that indicates whether personnel have been delayed beyond their planned deployment end-dates.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate of the level of future expenditure on work classified as redevelopment at each RAF base in the UK was made in his Department's annual planning round in 2010. [35076]

Mr Robathan: The outcome of the planning round in 2010 was re-costed as part of the strategic defence and security review and the comprehensive spending review. The outcome of both reviews will be enacted through planning round 2011, which will allocate future budgets. This is expected to conclude in the early part of 2011.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the change in the level of annual compensation for a single amputee is in each *(a)* rank and *(b)* force as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index; [35915]

(2) what the change in the level of annual compensation for a double amputee is in each *(a)* rank and *(b)* force as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index from the retail prices index. [35916]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-89W, and to the ministerial statement I made on 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate, on the basis of the 2010 figures for the retail prices index and the consumer prices index, the change in unemployability allowance payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, (d) 75, (e) 80, (f) 85, (g) 90 (h) 95 and (i) 100 years as a result of the use of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35760]

(2) if he will estimate, on the basis of the 2010 figures for the retail prices index and the consumer prices index, the change in disablement gratuity for each specified minor injury to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90 *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years as a result of the use of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35761]

(3) what estimate he has made, on the basis of the 2010 figures for the retail prices index and the consumer prices index, of the savings which will accrue to his Department from the change in pension indexation from the retail prices index to the consumer prices index in each financial year to 2019-20; [35762]

(4) if he will estimate, on the basis of the 2010 figures for the retail prices index and the consumer prices index, the change in disability pension payable to a member of each of the armed forces at each rank living until (a) 60, (b) 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years as a result of the use of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index. [35763]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the change in the level of pension payable to a widow of a senior NCO widowed at age 40 years and living to *(a)* 60, *(b)* 65, *(c)* 70, *(d)* 75, *(e)* 80, *(f)* 85, *(g)* 90, *(h)* 95 and *(i)* 100 years arising from a calculation on the basis of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index; [35581]

(2) if he will estimate the change in the level of *(a)* compensation benefit and *(b)* pensions payments per annum a 27-year-old corporal who lost both legs in Afghanistan would receive as a result of the change to link pensions to the consumer prices index if he or she lived until (i) 60, (ii) 65, (iii) 70, (iv) 75, (v) 80, (vi) 85, (vii) 90, (viii) 95 and (ix) 100 years old. [35582]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Members to the answer given by the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for Aldershot (Mr Howarth) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 587-89W, to the hon. Member for West Dunbartonshire (Gemma Doyle) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones); and to the ministerial statement I made on 9 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS.

Defence Vetting Agency: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in his consideration of the merits of merging the Defence Vetting Agency with the vetting services of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and when a decision on this matter will be reached. [35822]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has been working with the Cabinet Office for some time on the opportunities to streamline and simplify security vetting across Government. Currently the processing of vetting is conducted by two organisations, the Defence Vetting Agency and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services. We continue to look closely at what further improvements could be made as part of the overall efficiency and reform agenda while maintaining the highest standards of protection for HMG assets. No decision has been taken about merging vetting services.

Defence: Sales

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department has given to use of Ministry of Defence equipment by the Territorial Army for training purposes as an alternative to the sale of such equipment. [35140]

Mr Robathan: The Army allocates equipment to units across the whole Army (regular and territorial) according to their directed tasks and roles. All units are provided with sufficient equipment to complete their planned training, and to conduct their endorsed day-to-day business. Where units or personnel, including Territorial Army, are involved in an operation they will be equipped accordingly to enable them to prepare for and carry out their designated roles and tasks in support of that operation.

Before equipment is deemed surplus and disposed of, any possible further use, whether by regular or reserve forces, is carefully considered.

Departmental Manpower

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34822]

Peter Luff: All Ministry of Defence (MOD) contracts let in the UK are governed by UK law. There is a statutory obligation for UK employers to pay the national minimum wage. The MOD does not collect information about the wage rates paid by its contractors in London.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which company will be responsible for dismantling the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft; if he will estimate the cost of dismantling; and whether such dismantling will include the aircraft Nimrod PA04. [35382]

Nick Harvey: Once BAE Systems has removed onboard equipment and systems from the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft, including PA04, they will be dismantled on the Ministry of Defence's behalf by Metal and Waste Recycling Limited. This company is one of the contractors used to dispose of surplus defence equipment through specialist marketing agreements that have been completed in accordance with European Union procurement regulations. It is not yet possible to confirm the cost of dismantling the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel who served in Bosnia are in receipt of an armed forces pension; [35912]

(2) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment is to service personnel who served in Bosnia; [35913]

(3) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment is to service personnel who served in Sierra Leone. [3[illegible]]

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment was to service personnel who served in Bosnia in the latest period for which figures are available. [35583]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 1016W, to the right hon. Member for East Renfrewshire (Mr Murphy), the hon. Member for West Dunbartonshire (Gemma Doyle) and the hon. Member for North Durham (Mr Jones).

EDUCATION

Academies: Hendon

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent progress has been made on his Department's Academies programme in Hendon constituency. [32501]

Mr Gibb: The London Academy has been running successfully since 2004.

Five Expressions of Interest to convert to academy status have been received by the Department for Education from schools in the Hendon constituency. One application to convert to academy status has been received by the Department.

Officials will continue to work with schools across the country, providing information in response to expressions of interest and supporting schools once they have decided to convert to academy status.

The list of converting schools can be found at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0069811/schools-submitting-applications-and-academies-which-have-opened-in-201011

Academies: Religion

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons his Department did not include an obligation to provide religious instruction in its legislative proposals for the Academies Bill 2010; and if he will make a statement. [32604]

Mr Gibb: The Academies Act 2010 provides minimal prescription in legislation in order to provide autonomy and freedom to schools who gain academy status. All academies are however required by their funding agreements to make provision for the teaching of religious education. It is an academy's funding agreement that has, since the inception of the programme, been used as a mechanism to uphold the core principles that an academy must agree to follow and there are no plans to change this.

The Department for Education has also worked closely with both the Church of England and the Catholic Education Service to ensure that those faith voluntary-controlled or voluntary-aided schools who wish to convert have their religious position protected. The faith model documentation therefore protects on conversion the position around religious education and instruction in these schools.

Curriculum: Languages

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken towards establishing modern foreign languages as part of the primary school curriculum from the 2011-12 academic year. [32876]

Mr Gibb: The Government believe that learning a language is important to the social and economic future of the country and to help children understand the world in which they live. We have announced a review of the National Curriculum, which will consider the status of languages at both primary and secondary level. We are consulting a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare favourably with those of the highest performing countries in the world.

We know that some 90% of primary schools are already teaching languages to at least some of their seven to 11-year-olds. We appreciate the efforts that teachers are putting into making sure that children in primary schools are taught languages. It is thanks to their work that pupils not only learn a language but also come to appreciate other cultures. Given its importance, primary schools that are teaching languages should continue to do so.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* of each gender, *(b)* with a disability and *(c)* from each ethnic background who received an education maintenance allowance in 2009-10. [32995]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Glasgow North West with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 13 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ32995.

The information provided below is for take-up of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in the 2009/10 academic year. Equal opportunity monitoring questions are asked on the application form but applicants may choose not to answer some or all of these questions.

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Gender	*Number*
Male	174,547
Female	173,511
Not specified/preferred not to say	296,463

Disability	*Number*
Disabled	1,366
Not disabled	368,301
Not specified/preferred not to say	274,854

Ethnicity	*Number*
Bangladeshi	2,124
Indian	2,838
Pakistani	5,583
Other Asian	1,593
Black/Black British African	4,792
Black/Black British Caribbean	2,389
Black/Black British Other	433
Chinese	469
Other Ethnic Group	19
Mixed White/Asian	724
Mixed White Black African	398
Mixed White Black Caribbean	1,762
Mixed Other	994
White British	70,457

Ethnicity	*Number*
White Irish	222
White Other	2,557
Not specified/preferred not to say	547,167

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people have received education maintenance allowance in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [33870]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Wallasey with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 19 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ33870.

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Take-up figures are:

Academic year	*Wirral LA*	*North West*	*England*
2006/07	4,252	84,409	526,808
2007/08	4,424	87,568	547,235
2008/09	4,561	83,992	576,144
2009/10	4,894	101,526	644,497
2010/11 as at 31 December	4,435	94,686	605,035

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 are available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in Henley constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [34227]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) which operates the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Henley with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 19 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ34227.

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 31 December 2010, the take-up figure for young people in Oxfordshire who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year was 4,223.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 are available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Free School Meals: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of school pupils in North West Durham constituency claim free school meals. [33020]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table.

The answer includes full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged five to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: school meal arrangements[4,5,6] North West Durham—January 2010

	Number on roll[4,5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	6,228	1,264	20.3
State-funded secondary[1,2]	3,780	583	15.4
Special[3]	53	13	24.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Includes pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

[6] Durham local authority is participating in a pilot offering FSMs to all primary school children. The figures in this table reflect the pupils who would be eligible for FSM under the national criteria.

Source:

School Census

Home Education: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of children in North West Durham constituency who are home-schooled. [32953]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information about the numbers of home-schooled children and has not made a recent estimate of the number of home-schooled children in North West Durham constituency.

Languages: English Baccalaureate

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which languages available at GCSE level will not be included in the English baccalaureate. [31871]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* For the purposes of the 2010 performance tables GCSEs in all modern foreign languages including Welsh and Welsh as a 2nd Language and GCSEs in Latin, Classical Greek and Biblical Hebrew will count towards the language aspect of the English Baccalaureate. The only GCSEs not to be included are Applied French and Applied Welsh as a 2nd Language.

We will review the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 tables, but would not expect to remove any of the qualifications identified for the 2010 tables.

Numeracy

Kevin Brennan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the Every Child Counts numeracy scheme. [34008]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* We regularly monitor the progress of the Every Child Counts (ECC) programme against a range of management information.

Edge Hill university recently published a management report on the programme which is available on their website at the following link:

http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/everychildcounts/general/documents/NCAnnual%20Report200910.pdf

The programme is currently undergoing an independent evaluation, to report by spring, which will give a substantive view of the impact of the programme.

Offences Against Children

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will establish a cross-departmental inquiry on grooming of vulnerable under-age children for the purposes of sexual exploitation; and if he will make a statement. [35153]

Tim Loughton: Sexual exploitation of children and young people is horrific. It is a form of child sexual abuse which affects all sorts of children—boys as well as girls, younger as well as older children—and is perpetrated by people from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. It can be found in all areas of the country and the coalition Government are determined to act decisively to tackle it.

To deal with such a complex problem effectively, we need to look at every aspect, from awareness-raising and prevention through to crime detection and victim support. That means that there must be a collaborative approach involving Ministers from a range of Government Departments as well as local authority children's services, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, and organisations like the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), Barnardo's and others, including voluntary organisations around the country.

CEOP has agreed to conduct a thematic assessment, involving a range of agencies and organisations, which will consider the extent and scale of child sexual exploitation and the police response to it.

Within Government, and working with national and local partners, I will lead our urgent consideration of what further action needs to be taken to safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation. This will build on existing guidance and our developing understanding of this appalling abuse including through local agencies' work around the country on effective prevention strategies, identifying those at risk of sexual exploitation, supporting victims, and taking robust action against perpetrators.

Disadvantaged Pupils

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his estimate is of the level of deprivation for school children resident in *(a)* Reading West constituency and *(b)* Berkshire using as a measure (i) eligibility for free school meals and (ii) the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007. [30078]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following tables.

(i) Number of resident pupils[1] who are eligible for free school meals: 2010

	Number of resident pupils[1]	Number of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals	Percentage of resident pupils[1] eligible for free school meals
Reading West	13,853	2,153	15.5
Bracknell Forest	14,518	1,134	7.8
West Berkshire	20,002	1,590	7.9
Reading	18,476	3,304	17.9
Slough	20,528	3,684	17.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	15,727	1,111	7.1
Wokingham	19,795	892	4.5
Berkshire[2]	109,046	11,715	10.7
England	6,758,259	1,174,249	17.4

[1] Includes full-time pupils aged 15 or under and part-time pupils aged between five and 15 who are resident in England with sole and dual main registrations and attend maintained nursery, primary, secondary, maintained and non-maintained special schools, city technology colleges and academies. Includes boarders.

[2] Berkshire county council was abolished in 1998 and replaced by the following unitary authorities: Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Reading, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham.

Source:

School Census 2010

(ii) Number of resident pupils[1, 2] by IDACI decile: 2010

IDACI decile	*Reading West*		*Bracknell Forest*		*West Berkshire*		*Reading*		*Slough*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
0 to 10%—most deprived	1,376	8.6	0	0	0	0	2,139	10	978	4.0
10 to 20%	2,058	12.8	0	0	733	3.2	4,003	18.8	5,983	24.6
20 to 30%	2,073	12.9	220	1.4	826	3.6	2,950	13.8	6,422	26.4
30 to 40%	2,122	13.2	2,159	13.3	1,351	6.0	3,318	15.6	5,495	22.6
40 to 50%	874	5.4	2,865	17.7	1,715	7.6	1,313	6.2	2,322	9.6
50 to 60%	1,295	8.1	2,147	13.3	2,595	11.4	2,021	9.5	940	3.9
60 to 70%	1,390	8.7	2,289	14.1	3,167	14.0	1,858	8.7	788	3.2
70 to 80%	2,209	13.8	1,177	7.3	5,141	22.7	1,113	5.2	780	3.2
80 to 90%	1,502	9.4	2,019	12.5	2,643	11.6	1,424	6.7	576	2.4
90 to 100%—least deprived	1,157	7.2	3,313	20.5	4,521	19.9	1,180	5.5	0	0

IDACI decile	*Windsor and Maidenhead*		*Wokingham*		*Berkshire[3]*		*England*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
0 to 10%—most deprived	0	0	0	0	3,117	2.5	986,773	13.2
10 to 20 %	0	0	[4]—	[4]—	10,721	8.6	865,456	11.6
20 to 30 %	1,507	8.3	854	3.8	12,779	10.2	781,074	10.4
30 to 40 %	3,339	18.3	704	3.1	16,366	13.1	729,243	9.8
40 to 50 %	643	3.5	1,087	4.8	9,945	7.9	705,556	9.4
50 to 60 %	1,742	9.6	[4]—	[4]—	9,958	7.9	689,114	9.2
60 to 70 %	2,079	11.4	1,457	6.4	11,638	9.3	678,145	9.1
70 to 80 %	1,780	9.8	3,249	14.4	13,240	10.6	684,317	9.2
80 to 90 %	1,558	8.5	5,531	24.5	13,751	11.0	684,564	9.2
90 to 100%—least deprived	5,580	30.6	9,222	40.8	23,816	19.0	674,252	9.0

[1] Includes all full-time and part-time pupils who are resident in England with sole and dual main registrations, includes boarders.

[2] Includes all full-time and part-time pupils who attend maintained nursery, primary, secondary, maintained and non-maintained special schools, city technology colleges and academies.

3 Berkshire county council was abolished in 1998 and replaced by the following unitary authorities: Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Reading, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham.

[4] Suppressed data.

Source:

School Census 2010

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children receive *(a)* free school meals and *(b)* education maintenance allowance in each local authority ward in Hendon constituency. [32502]

Mr Gibb: The number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the table. This includes full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged 5 to 15.

Maintained nursery[1], maintained primary[2], state-funded secondary[2, 3] and special[4] schools: School meal arrangements[5]. As at January 2010. By each ward within Hendon parliamentary constituency

	Nursery[1] and primary[2]			*State-funded secondary[2, 3]*			*Special[4]*		
	Number on roll[5, 6]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[5, 6]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[5, 6]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[5, 6]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
Burnt Oak	2,214	855	38.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colindale	441	81	18.4	916	129	14.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Edgware	1,453	399	27.5	1,048	460	43.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hale	1,500	347	23.1	1,226	136	11.1	81	35	43.2
Hendon	1,601	284	17.7	1,653	466	28.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mill Hill	1,733	297	17.1	892	186	20.9	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Hendon	920	213	23.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hendon (all wards)	9,862	2,476	25.1	5,735	1,377	24.0	81	35	43.2

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type.

[1] There are no maintained nursery schools in Hendon parliamentary constituency.

[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[3] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[4] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[5] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[6] Pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 and under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

Source:

School Census

The education maintenance allowance is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate this for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Neil Flint, dated 7 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 032502.

The Department for Education is responsible for overall policy in these areas and will answer the first part of your question on free school meals.

The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) is responsible for the delivery of Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA). Information on the number of young people who have received EMA is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in an academic year.

The take-up figure for EMA in Barnet Local Authority was 2,976 as at 30 November 2010.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 are available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Religious Education

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on religious education as an element of the national curriculum. [33018]

Mr Gibb: Religious education RE is a statutory part of the basic curriculum of maintained schools in England, but not a part of the National Curriculum. This means that there are no statutory national programmes of study, attainment targets or assessment arrangements. However, the locally agreed syllabus, which is designed by Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education SACRE and adopted by the local authority, is statutory, and that means that local authorities must provide such a syllabus and that maintained schools must follow it. Schools with a religious character can either follow the locally agreed syllabus, or use a syllabus which has been agreed by their governing body. It is the responsibility of the head teacher, governors and local authorities (LAs) to make the necessary provisions for RE in all maintained schools.

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received from faith groups on the place of religious education in an English Baccalaureate. [33019]

Mr Gibb: To date we have had 35 representations from faith groups on the place of religious education in the English Baccalaureate.

School Support Staff Negotiating Body: Impact Assessments

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department carried out an equality impact assessment prior to taking the decision to abolish the School Support Staff Negotiating Body. [32868]

Mr Gibb: In reaching the decision to abolish the School Support Staff Negotiating Body, the Secretary of State took full account of the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) that was produced by this Department. A copy of that EQIA will be sent to SSSNB trade union and employer organisation representatives.

Schools: Film

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department provided for FILMCLUB for recreational use of films in schools in each of the last three years. [32992]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education announced in July 2008 that it would provide £11.4 million to fund the roll out of FILMCLUB That funding was for £3.1 million in 2008-09, £3.7 million in 2009-2010 and £4.6 million in 2010-11.

Schools: Hendon

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on school standards in Hendon constituency. [32503]

Mr Gibb: No representations have been received on school standards in Hendon. In 2009, the most recent year for which constituency level data are available, 76% of pupils in Hendon achieved level 4 or above in English and maths combined at key stage 2, compared with 72% in England. At key stage 4, 55.3% of pupils in Hendon achieved five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C, including English and maths, compared with 50.9% in England. Constituency level data for 2010 will be available shortly.

Schools: Personnel

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) which employee groups within his Department's responsibilities are covered by a national pay body; which such pay bodies have been abolished in the last year; and if he will make a statement; [32866]

(2) what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure fairness, consistency and local flexibility in pay and conditions for school support staff following the abolition of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body; [32867]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on schools of the abolition of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body. [32875]

Mr Gibb: The School Teachers Review Body (STRB) examines and reports on matters relating to statutory conditions of employment of school teachers in England and Wales as may be referred to it from time to time by the Secretary of State for Education. The School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB) was established by the previous Government in 2009, with a remit that includes considering, with a view to reaching agreement on, matters relating to the remuneration and conditions of school support staff working in maintained schools in England.

No changes are planned to the role or remit of the STRB, but on 28 October the Secretary of State for Education announced his intention to introduce legislation at the earliest opportunity to abolish the SSSNB. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued by the Secretary of State for Education on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 14-15WS. In reaching this decision, full account was taken of the associated equality impact assessment, a copy of which is being sent to the union and employer representatives on the SSSNB.

Since its establishment, the SSSNB has not submitted any agreements to the Secretary of State who has now withdrawn the matters that had been referred to the SSSNB by the previous Secretary of State. Because of this, the process used to determine the pay and conditions of school support staff remains unchanged and these will continue to be determined at a local level. Employers are, of course, under an obligation to ensure that any pay and grading structure that they put in place complies fully with the requirements of equality legislation.

The Government believe that schools should be free to organise staff and resources to address local priorities and needs, without undue or unnecessary influence, or intervention, from Government. The existence of a national negotiating body for support staff pay and conditions is not consistent with this aim.

Schools: Sports

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of school sport partnerships in *(a)* all school settings and *(b)* primary schools. [25771]

Tim Loughton: While some school sport partnerships have helped schools to raise participation rates in areas targeted by the previous Government, they have also locked schools into a rigid network while forcing them to report on progress which impedes schools' ability to promote sport. The Government are also concerned that, despite this heavy focus on targets, the proportion of pupils playing competitive sport regularly has remained disappointingly low. Only around two in every five pupils play competitive sport regularly within their own school, and only one in five plays regularly against other schools.

Good schools know that playing sport has many benefits. Our approach is to maximise the resources available to schools to allow school leaders to decide how best to provide those benefits for pupils, without specifying a national blueprint of partnerships, programmes and central support.

The Secretary of State's announcement on 20 December outlined the additional central resources available to schools for school sport.

Vocational Education: Special Educational Needs

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what consideration Professor Alison Wolf's review of vocational education will give to pupils with special educational needs; and if he will make a statement. [32752]

Mr Gibb: Professor Wolf's review is considering the appropriate place of vocational education for all 14 to 19-year-olds, including those with special educational needs. She will report her conclusions in the spring.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to provide a substantive answer to question 29768, on questions tabled for named day answer, tabled on 6 December 2010 for named day answer on 9 December 2010. [30947]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* A response to PQ29768 was issued on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 858W.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information her Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing her Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34808]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office does not hold any pay information relating to sub-contracted staff.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by her Department since May 2010; [35389]

(2) what public appointments she has made since her appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35410]

Mrs Gillan: None.

Driving Standards Agency: Cardiff

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence she has had with Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport responsible for the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) on the proposed closure of the DSA office in Cardiff. [34977]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport on a range of issues.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she was informed of the decision to close the Driving Standards Agency in Cardiff; and by whom she was informed of that decision. [34978]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Transport and his ministerial team on a range of issues.

VAT

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate she has made of the sum which will accrue to the Exchequer attributable to the proposed increase in the standard rate of value added tax in Wales in each of the next five years. [34434]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

The estimated total revenue gain from the VAT rate increase on 4 January 2011 is £12.1 billion for 2011-12. We have not attempted to attribute that revenue to particular areas of the UK.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Chris Bryant: To ask the Prime Minister what wine was served at the reception at 10 Downing street on 18 January; and at what cost to the public purse. [35920]

The Prime Minister: There were no costs to the public purse.

Members: Surveillance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Prime Minister whether there have been any changes to the Wilson doctrine since May 2010. [35701]

The Prime Minister: No.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Billingsgate Market: Conditions of Employment

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether financial assistance from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the EU is available to fund the restructuring of terms and conditions of employment for licensed porters at Billingsgate Fish Market; [34788]

(2) what regulations with national extent govern the licensing arrangements for porters at Billingsgate Fish Market; [34789]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with the City of London corporation on the licensing arrangements of the porters at Billingsgate Fish Market; and if he will make a statement. [34790]

Robert Neill: Licensing arrangements and terms and conditions for porters at Billingsgate market are not a matter for central Government, they are a local issue. The City of London corporation is the landlord of Billingsgate market and the porters are employed by individual fish merchants. I understand that the Billingsgate market byelaws cover aspects of licensing arrangements for porters, but there may of course be licensing issues that extend beyond the reach of byelaws. The City of London has made an application to the Department for Communities and Local Government for the revocation of byelaws relating to Billingsgate market. At present, the application is being considered by officials in my Department and no decision has yet been made as to whether or not to grant provisional approval for the revocation.

The Department for Communities and Local Government does not give any financial assistance to fund the restructuring of terms and conditions of employment for licensed porters at Billingsgate fish market, and the EU Fisheries Fund does not cover the restructuring of the terms and conditions of employment for the licensed porters.

I can confirm that my Department has had no discussion with the City of London corporation on the licensing arrangements.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the funding allocation in respect of concessionary bus travel was to *(a)* Oxfordshire district councils for 2010-11 and *(b)* Oxfordshire county council for 2011-12. [35676]

Robert Neill: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, ie authorities are free to spend it on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service, including concessionary travel.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to help local authorities to bring derelict buildings back into use following changes in the administration of empty dwelling management orders. [34860]

Andrew Stunell: In addition to the proposed changes we will be making on empty dwelling management orders, we have recently completed a consultation on the New Homes Bonus which includes the option of including empty homes within the scheme. This could provide local authorities with a powerful incentive to tackle empty homes as part of their overall approach to meeting housing need.

We will also provide £100 million for housing associations and local authorities to bring over 3,000 empty homes back into use as affordable rented housing. This will enable local authorities to tackle the most difficult properties by providing renovation works and management support.

We will also be reforming the Public Request to Order Disposal (PROD) process. It enables local authorities and citizens alike to ask for the Government's help to bring under or unused land and buildings, owned by various public bodies, back into use. The reforms will enable communities to have greater influence on shaping the future of their areas.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders: Brighton

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Brighton and Hove were subject to an empty dwelling management order in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [34859]

Andrew Stunell: No properties have ever been subject to an empty dwelling management order in Brighton and Hove.

Home Information Packs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the abolition of home information packs. [33878]

Andrew Stunell: The Localism Bill was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010 and includes a provision to formally abolish home information packs. Subject to parliamentary approval, the provision will come into force when Royal Assent is achieved.

The Secretary of State suspended the home information pack duties by an Order made under s162 of the Housing Act 2004 which came into effect on 21 May 2010.

Local Government Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements he has put in place for his Department's internal review of local government finance; what time scale he has set for the review; with whom his Department plans to consult; from whom it plans to take advice as part of its evidence-based approach; and if he will make a statement. [35584]

Robert Neill: The Local Growth White Paper "Local Growth: realising every place's potential" confirmed that the Local Government Resource Review would consider proposals to allow local authorities to retain locally-raised business rates. The review will commence in January and develop proposals by July 2011. The Secretary of State will make an announcement shortly about the review and its terms of reference.

Thames Tideway Tunnel

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has made to Thames Water on the Thames Tideway Tunnel; and if he will publish each item of correspondence between his Department and Hammersmith and Fulham council on this matter. [34804]

Robert Neill: My Department has made no representations to Thames Water on the Thames Tideway tunnel or exchanged correspondence with Hammersmith and Fulham council on this matter.

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on updating ODPM circular 01/2006 (Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites); when he expects an updated or replacement circular to be published; and if he will make a statement. [34915]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 497W.

JUSTICE

Departmental Artworks

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on artwork since May 2010. [35206]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice and its agencies have spent no money on artwork since May 2010.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many artworks his Department has moved since May 2010. [35357]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold a central record of artwork that has been moved. Providing these details would require individual offices being contacted separately and a sift through their specific records. As a result the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Offices

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on the redecoration of ministerial offices since May 2010. [35359]

Mr Djanogly: No ministerial offices have been redecorated since May 2010. Therefore there has been no expenditure on this.

Departmental Official Cars

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* make and *(b)* model was of each Government Car Service car that have been used by his Department since May 2010; and which Minister used each car. [35250]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Between May and September 2010, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was allocated four cars to its Ministers. One was a Jaguar XJ TDVi Sovereign, one was a Toyota Prius T3 and two were Honda Civic ES Hybrid. This was supplemented by the use of pool cars as needed.

Since September 2010, I have an allocated Jaguar XJ TDVi Sovereign, which other departmental Ministers are expected to make use of, before calling on the car pool. The majority of journeys made in pool cars since September 2010 were made in a Toyota Prius T3 or a Honda Civic ES Hybrid, with occasional journeys in other Government Car Service approved models. It is unfortunately not possible to provide a list of which ministerial journeys have been made in which models.

The Home Office provides the arrangements in relation to the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, who also has ministerial responsibilities at the Ministry of Justice.

The Government's policy is that Ministers may make use of the Government Car Service (GCS) under the terms of the new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010. This states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

The Ministerial Code is available on the Cabinet Office website.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Ministerial cars have been used by his Department since May 2010. [35252]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Between May and September 2010, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was allocated four cars to its Ministers. This was supplemented by the use of pool cars as needed.

Since September 2010, I have an allocated car, which other departmental Ministers are expected to make use of, before calling on the car pool. It is unfortunately not possible to identify how many different cars have been used by MOJ Ministers since September 2010.

The Home Office provides the arrangements in relation to the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice, who also has ministerial responsibilities at the Ministry of Justice.

The Government's policy is that Ministers may make use of the Government Car Service (GCS) under the terms of the new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010. This states that

> "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed".

Ministers are permitted to use an official car for official business and for home to office journeys within a reasonable distance of London on the understanding that they would normally be carrying classified papers on which they would be working. Where practicable, Ministers are encouraged to use public transport.

The Ministerial Code is available on the Cabinet Office website.

Staff Costs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of subcontracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34813]

Mr Djanogly: This information is not held centrally. Prime contractors are obliged to notify my Department of any subcontractors they intend to use, but this typically extends to the name and address of the subcontractor and does not include detail of the actual number of subcontracted staff or their pay rates. Further, information on subcontracted companies could be gathered only at disproportionate cost, as a data collection exercise would entail a manual search of procurement case files.

Departmental Staff Costs

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* total cost to his Department of expenditure on salaries and *(b)* average cost of such expenditure in respect of staff employed on fixed term contracts in his Department was in the latest period for which figures are available. [35256]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In the financial year 2009-10 the Ministry of Justice spend £2,743,368,000 on staff salaries. This figure is published on page 92 of the Ministry of Justice Resource Accounts 2009-10 and can be found at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/moj-resource-accounts-2010.pdf

With regard to the question about the average cost in respect of fixed-term staff, this information is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to produce such a figure. Information on staff salaries and staff employment status are not held on the same database. It would be necessary identify each staff member on a fixed contract and find their salary in order to generate an average.

Departmental Photography

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on photography since May 2010. [35358]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has spent £2,577 on photography since May 2010. This expenditure was by Her Majesty's Courts Service and the National Offender Management Service for official events.

In MOJ headquarters, all photography is done in-house by the Communications team at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Departmental Redundancy

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [35254]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: There have been no redundancies since May 2010, therefore there are no costs.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department have been made redundant since May 2010. [35255]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since May 2010, no staff redundancies have occurred. Where reorganisations have taken place, any displaced staff have been redeployed to alternative duties, gained employment elsewhere, or have applied for and received voluntary early departure.

Departmental Travel

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on Ministerial travel since May 2010. [35251]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Between May and December 2010, the Ministry of Justice spent £14,000 on ministerial public and overseas transport costs via GPC. This includes the costs of officials travelling with Ministers as these costs cannot be broken down without incurring disproportionate costs.

£284 was spent between May and October on taxi fares for Ministers.

This Department spent £152,000 on the Government Car Service for ministerial transport between 1 May and 31 December 2010.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on travel by officials since May 2010. [35354]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Ministry of Justice HQ has spent £1,235,588 on travel by officials since May 2010.

HM Courts Service has spent £1,640,638 on travel by officials since May 2010.

The National Offender Management Service has spent £8,888,000 on travel by officials since May 2010. This figure does not include travel costs for long-term detached duty and overseas travel. In both these cases travel and subsistence costs are accounted together and it would incur disproportionate costs to analyse each transaction to determine whether it is a travel or subsistence charge.

The Office of the Public Guardian has spent £118,000 on travel by officials since May 2010.

The Tribunals Service does not have separate accounts for travel and subsistence for the period requested. It would incur disproportionate costs to analyse each transaction to indentify whether it is a travel or subsistence charge.

All staff are responsible for minimising business travel and are advised to consider whether they can use video or teleconferencing instead of travel. When travel is necessary staff are instructed to choose the most effective means of travel in terms of time, cost and sustainability to minimise carbon footprint.

Divorce

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals in respect of divorce settlements. [34921]

Mr Djanogly: The Family Justice Review is considering the process around divorce and financial settlement on divorce (ancillary relief) but not the substantive law. Concurrent consideration of these technically difficult areas would have been unmanageable and impinge on the deliverability and timescale for much needed reform of the family justice system overall. The review is due to publish an interim report in the spring.

On 11 January the Law Commission launched a public consultation on marital property agreements, following the decision of the Supreme Court last year in Radmacher *v.* Granatino. The Law Commission is seeking views on the desirability and feasibility of a range of potential options for reforming the law of pre-nuptial, post-nuptial and separation agreements—contracts made by couples before or during their marriage or civil partnership that are intended to govern their financial arrangements if the relationship ends. The consultation closes on 11 April 2011. The Government will await recommendations from the Law Commission before considering how to proceed.

Drugs: Reoffenders

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those convicted of drug-related offences in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 had a previous conviction of any sort. [34856]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 gives the figures for the percentage of offenders convicted of drug offences in 2007-09 who had previously been convicted for any type of offence(s).

Table 1: Percentage of offenders convicted for drug offences who had a previous conviction for any type of offence(s, in 2007-09

Year of sentence	*Percentage*
2007	82.0
2008	82.3
2009	83.1

The figures presented in table 1 have been taken from the dataset used for Table 6.1 of Sentence Statistics 2009 published by the Ministry of Justice on 24 October 2010. The figures are based on offences of drug possession, supply, production or import/export of drugs. The Ministry of Justice is unable to identify offences which may be drug-related but are not specifically drug offences.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Film

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on film production, including the filming of speeches, since May 2010. [35356]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has spent £15,000 on film production since May 2010. This was a joint collaboration between the Tribunals Service and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and focused on the Employment Tribunal.

Any filming of speeches by Ministers would be done by the MOJ's Communications team and produced in-house at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Ford Prison

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the prison population was on 31 December at HM Prison Ford in each of the last 10 years; [34981]

(2) what the average prison population was at HM Prison Ford in each of the last 10 years. [34982]

Mr Blunt: The following tables shows the relevant information on the prison population for HMP Ford from 2001-10.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table A: Prison population in HMP Ford, as on 31 December of each year 2001-08 and 2010 and on 18 December 2009

	Number
2001	396
2002	427
2003	488
2004	510
2005	465
2006	395
2007	494
2008	529
2009	524
2010	523

Note:

Due to technical problems reported by the MoJ Head of Statistics as announced on 27/09/2009, the publication of Population in custody monthly tables England and Wales' was suspended. Publication resumed in April 2010.

Sources:

2001 and 2002 taken from Table 3 of the 'Prison Population Brief England and Wales' published December 2001 and December 2002.

2003 taken from Table A of the 'F1032 End of month prison population tables, December 2003'.

2004-08 taken from Table 4 of the 'Population in custody monthly tables England and Wales' for December 2004 to 2008.

2009 data taken from NOMS 'Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing' as on 18/12/2009, the closest available date.

2010 is taken from the prison population as published in the 31/12/10 NOMS 'Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing'.

Table B: Average prison population in HMP Ford, from 2001-10

	Number
2001	375
2002	496
2003	500
2004	514
2005	520
2006	445
2007	456
2008	534
2009	537
2010	533

Note:

Due to technical problems relating to the supply of data for statistical purposes, the average annual populations for 2009 and 2010 use data compiled on a slightly different basis for July 2009 to February 2010.

Sources:

'Prison Population and Accommodation Briefing'; 'F1032 End of month prison population tables'; 'Population in custody monthly tables, England and Wales' and 'Offender Management Statistics Quarterly Bulletin'.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on how many occasions an offender has been sent to HM Prison Ford who would fall outside of the normal selection criteria for placement there in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [34983]

(2) on how many occasions an offender has been sent to HM Prison Ford without a full risk assessment having been carried out in the last 12 months; [34984]

(3) what criteria are used to *(a)* assess the level of risk posed by a prisoner and *(b)* determine an offender's suitability for placement at HM Prison Ford. [34985]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners are categorised and allocated to open prison (category D) following an established risk assessment process set out in the National Security Framework as amended by Prison Service Instructions 16/2008 and 3/2009, which remain in force. Prisoners may be assessed as suitable for open conditions if they present a low risk of harm to the public, are considered to be trustworthy not to abscond from low security conditions and, for those serving a lengthy prison sentence, in general, within two years of their earliest release date. Prisoners who do not meet these criteria are not moved to open conditions, and those who are later considered to have increased those risks whilst in open conditions would be moved back to closed conditions.

Sending prisons are aware of Ford's acceptance criteria, and so prisoners who do not meet these criteria are not sent there. All prisoners transferred to Ford have been risk assessed as suitable for category D.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 17 November and *(b)* 14 December 2010 regarding a constituent, Mr Allison. [35774]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Prisoner Transfers

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effect on HM Prison *(a)* Preston, *(b)* Garth and *(c)* Wymott of receiving prisoners displaced from other prisons in the region. [35267]

Mr Blunt: In the management of the prison population the aim is to hold prisoners in establishments that provide the level of security required, are suitable for their gender, age and legal status, provide special facilities appropriate to prisoner needs and are near to their homes or the courts dealing with their cases

Prisoners are moved from one prison to another as part of their sentence plan, following re-categorisation, where requested or where there is an operational need to do so.

As a local prison which serves the courts in the area, HMP Preston's main function is to hold unconvicted and unsentenced prisoners and, once a prisoner had been sentenced, to allocate them on to an appropriate training prison to serve their sentence.

As training prisons, HMPs Garth and Wymott regularly receive sentenced prisoners from other establishments in the North West, including local prisons such as HMP Preston, as well as from other establishments across the estate.

Prisons: Drugs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons in England and Wales were found in possession of *(a)* class A and *(b)* class B drugs in 2009-10. [34749]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of visitors to prisons in England and Wales found in possession of class A and class B drugs is not recorded centrally. To provide the information would require a detailed investigation into all local records and incur disproportionate cost.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many finds of *(a)* Class A and *(b)* Class B drugs there were in jails in England and Wales in 2009-10. [35069]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) collates the number and type of drug seizures in prisons. The number of drug seizures in prisons in England and Wales in 2009-10 is given in the following table. Many seizures are similar in appearance and where not attributable are not categorically identified by scientific analysis.

Drugs	*Number of seizures*
Heroin	647
Cocaine	132
LSD	4
Amphetamines	81
Barbiturates	6
Cannabis	1,100
Cannabis Plant	303
Tranquilisers	18
Crack	10
Other	2,190
Total	4,491

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisons: Employment

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what process he has put in place for private employers seeking to establish an employment project within a prison. [34904]

Mr Blunt: The development of prisoners' employment skills help them to become productive members of society and improves their chances of gaining employment on release, which we know is a major contributor to turning them away from crime.

There are already examples of successful partnerships between prisons and private sector organisations; whether employers are recruiting offenders directly from prison, running a prison workshop, providing the chance of employment on release or helping shape policy and practice.

Through our Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders', published on 7 December 2010, we are consulting with the private sector about how we can increase further their participation in providing work and training in prisons.

We will continue to identify senior business leaders to champion the role and contribution of employers in rehabilitating offenders through skills development and employment in both prisons and the community.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which private employers provide prisoners with work in prisons. [34905]

Mr Blunt: There are a number of private sector organisations that currently support work in prisons and the Government are currently considering how best to work with the private and voluntary sectors to provide further work and training opportunities for prisoners, including an increased number of employer-led workshops in prisons.

A list of 'contract services' customers[1] (including many from the private sector) is available on the HM Prison Service website via the following link:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonindustries/ [2]

A number of other organisations from the private sector, including Timpson's, Travis Perkins, National Grid, Cisco Systems, Speedy Hire plc and DHL/Booker, work in partnership with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to provide prison training workshops offering training to prisoners and the chance of employment on release.

There are many examples of successful partnerships across NOMS, whether employers are recruiting offenders directly from prison, running a prison workshop, providing work placements or helping shape policy and practice.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons have vacant prison workshop spaces. [34909]

Mr Blunt: Information in relation to the number of public sector prisons in England and Wales that currently have unused prison workshops is not held centrally and could be obtained only by contacting individual prison establishments at disproportionate cost.

Prosecutions: Cycling

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cyclists were prosecuted for road traffic offences in each of the last five years. [35451]

Mr Blunt: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for pedal cycle offences in England and Wales, from 2005-09 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for pedal cycle offences[1], England and Wales, 2005-09[2, 3, 4]

	Number
2005	626
2006	643
2007	566
2008	534
2009	596

[1] Includes offences under:
Highways Act 1835 as amended by Local Government Act 1888,
Statute Law Revision (No.2) Act 1888, Highways Act 1959, Criminal Justice Act 1967 and Criminal Justice Act 1982;
Metropolitan Police Act 1839 and byelaws;
Road Traffic Act 1988;
Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;
Pedal Cycles (Constructions and Use) Regulations 1983;
Motorways Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982;
Highways Act 1980;
Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Rape

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the longest sentence received by a woman prosecuted for *(a)* perverting the course of justice, *(b)* perjury and *(c)* wasting police time was following the withdrawal of a complaint of rape or domestic violence in the latest period for which figures are available; [35172]

(2) how many prosecutions for offences of rape were discontinued following a withdrawal by the victim between May 2010 and the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such prosecutions were discontinued in the same period in 2009; [35468]

(3) how many women who have retracted a complaint of rape or domestic violence were prosecuted for *(a)* wasting police time, *(b)* perjury and *(c)* perverting the course of justice between May 2010 and the latest date

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[1] Where organisations use prison facilities and prisoner labour to carry out services or manufacture/assemble goods under contract.

[2] Refer to 'Related Documents' at the end of the website page.

for which figures are available; and how many such prosecutions there were in the same period in 2009; [35469]

(4) how many prosecutions for offences of domestic violence were discontinued following a retraction by the victim between May 2010 and the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such prosecutions were discontinued in the same period in 2009. [35470]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice's Court Proceedings Database (CPD) holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. The CPD does not hold specific information on offences beyond descriptions provided in the statutes under which prosecutions are brought. It is not possible to identify from data held on proceedings brought against females for perverting the course of justice, perjury and wasting police time, those resulting from the withdrawal of a complaint of rape or domestic violence. Neither is it possible to separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person nor the reasons why proceedings have been discontinued.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in spring 2011.

Reoffenders: North Yorkshire

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate was for prisons in North Yorkshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [35146]

Mr Blunt: The latest available re-offending rates for prisons in North Yorkshire are provided in Table 1 as published by the Ministry of Justice in the Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis in November 2010.

Table 1 shows reoffending rates for North Yorkshire prisons (Wealstun and Leeds) in 2007 presented by prison category and prison sentence length (under 12 months and 12 months and over sentences).

The reoffending rates provided have been calculated based on the prison from which an offender was discharged and ignores the time spent at other institutions during that sentence.

The table also shows the average number of previous offences, average number of custodial sentences and the average age of the offenders discharged from North Yorkshire prisons in 2007. This illustrates that different prisons can have populations with a substantially different likelihood of reoffending.

Table 1: Reoffending rates for North Yorkshire prisons 2007

Prison	*Number of offenders discharged*	*Reoffending rate (%)*	*Average number of previous offences per offender*	*Average number of previous custodial sentences per offender*	*Average age per offender*
Under 12 months sentence					
Wealstun (Category C)	371	43.4	31.4	3.2	31.6
Leeds (Male local)	810	74.0	56.1	7.5	32.2
Over 12 month sentence					
Wealstun (Category C)	388	16.2	25.4	2.9	34.9
Leeds (Male local)	173	50.9	46.1	5.8	33.1

Young offender institution reoffending rates are not included for Northallerton and Wetherby, as the work published to date only considered adult prisons.

More information on the individual prison reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/compendium-reoffending.htm

Unpaid Fines: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the amount of unpaid fines and fees was in each justice region of Wales in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10. [35009]

Mr Djanogly: The amount of financial penalties outstanding in each of the Wales justice regions is:

£

	Dyfed Powys	*Gwent*	*North Wales*	*South Wales*
2006-07	3,498,109	5,631,898	6,203,903	11,894,720
2007-08	3,324,554	5,857,625	6,367,895	10,004,091
2008-09	3,955,288	5,903,094	7,303,005	9,879,205
2009-10	4,325,342	5,617,483	8,598,513	10,466,440

The amount outstanding can relate to fines imposed in that year or any previous year as fines are not always paid in the period which they are imposed and includes fines which are being paid in accordance with payment plans and the outstanding balance is therefore not all in arrears.

Wills

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to regulate will writing for the purposes of ensuring that all testamentary documents prepared for reward are prepared by qualified professionals. [35065]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Act 2007 (LSA) contains provisions which allow the Legal Services Board to recommend to me that a legal service such as will writing becomes a reserved legal activity.

Since the Legal Services Board (LSB) is currently investigating whether or not it would be in the interests of the legal consumer to regulate will writing, it will be more appropriate for me to await the outcome of that investigation before making an assessment of next steps.

CABINET OFFICE

Company Liquidations

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of new businesses ceased trading in their first year in the latest period for which figures are available. [35917]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of new businesses ceased trading in their first year in the latest period for which figures are available. [35917]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

ONS does not produce figures on the number of enterprises that ceased trading within their first year. However, the table below contains the latest statistics on business survival, which show the number of enterprise births in 2008, and the number that survived into 2009.

Enterprise births in 2008 and survival into 2009

	Number/percentage
2008 births	267,445
1 year survival	246,065
1 year percentage	92.0

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of new businesses ceased trading in their first five years in the latest period for which figures are available. [35918]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of new businesses ceased trading in their first five years in the latest period for which figures are available. [35918]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise births, deaths and survivals are available from the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

ONS does not produce figures on the number of enterprises that ceased trading within their first five years. However, the table below contains the latest statistics on business survival, which show the number of enterprise births in 2004, and their survival over five years.

Enterprise births in 2004 and their survival over five years

	Number	*Percentage*
2004 births	280,080	—
1 year survival	263,895	94.2
2 year survival	220,420	78.7
3 year survival	182,810	65.3
4 year survival	153,195	54.7
5 year survival	131,170	46.8

Employment

Amber Rudd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working age population of *(a)* Hastings and Rye constituency, *(b)* Hastings borough council area, *(c)* East Sussex, *(d)* the South East and *(e)* the UK are (i) employed in the public sector, (ii) employed in the private sector and (iii) unemployed. [35012]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working age population of (a) Hastings and Rye constituency, (b) Hastings borough council area, (c) East Sussex, (d) the South East and (e) the UK are (i) employed in the public sector, (ii) employed in the private sector and (iii) unemployed. (35012)

Public and private sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Table 1 shows the levels and proportions of the resident population aged 16 to 64 years employed in the private and public sector in (a) Hastings and Rye constituency, (b) Hastings borough council area, (c) East Sussex, (d) the South East and (e) the UK. Data have been provided for the most recent APS period, July 2009 to June 2010.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 2, shows the number and proportions of persons aged 16 to 64 years resident in (a) Hastings and Rye constituency, (b) Hastings borough council area, (c) East Sussex, (d) the South East and (e) the UK claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for December 2010, the most recent period for which figures are available.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1 Levels and proportions of the resident population aged 16-64 years of UK, South East, East Sussex County Council, Hastings borough council, Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency employed in (i) public and (ii) private sector—July 2009 to June 2010

	Level (thousand)		*Proportion (percentage)*	
	Public	*Private*	*Public*	*Private*
UK	*7,066	*20,751	18	52
South East	*895	*3,071	17	57

Table 1 Levels and proportions of the resident population aged 16-64 years of UK, South East, East Sussex County Council, Hastings borough council, Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency employed in (i) public and (ii) private sector—July 2009 to June 2010

	Level (thousand)		*Proportion (percentage)*	
	Public	*Private*	*Public*	*Private*
East Sussex	**48	**170	16	57
Hastings	***12	***28	23	52
Hastings and Rye	***13	***32	21	53

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Number of persons aged 16-64 years claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in UK, South East, East Sussex county council, Hastings borough council, Hastings and Rye parliamentary constituency—December 2010

	Level	*Proportion (percentage)*
UK	1,420,125	3.5
South East	127,445	2.4
East Sussex	8,800	2.9
Hastings	3,095	5.6
Hastings and Rye	3,385	5.2

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Voluntary Organisations

Peter Aldous: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he plans to take to help protect voluntary sector organisations from closure. [34104]

Mr Hurd: The Government are committed to making it easier to run a voluntary or community sector organisation, to get more resources into the sector and to make it easier to do business with the state.

To that end, the Government have set out a number of activities to support the sector. For example, the recently announced £100 million Transition Fund to support the sector through these challenging times and take advantage of the future opportunities presented by the big society. The renewed compact will strengthen the capacity of the sector and improve the partnership between the Government and civil society organisations, for the benefit of citizens and communities. A big society bank is currently being developed to help social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations to access more resources. The recently published Commissioning Green Paper highlights the Government's commitment to reforming the commissioning process to enable charities, social enterprises and employee-owned co-operatives a bigger role in delivering more innovative, diverse and responsive public services.

At the same time, the Government are listening to the sector. It recently ran a consultation "Supporting a Stronger Civil Society" on how to improve support for front-line voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises.

Working Hours

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average number of hours worked per week by *(a)* men and *(b)* women in full-time employment was in each year for which figures are available. [35748]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average number of hours worked per week by (a) men and (b) women in full-time employment were in each year. 35748.

The table provides the information requested for the September to November quarter each year from 1992 onwards. Comparable estimates are not available prior to 1992. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and are seasonally adjusted. They are published in the monthly Labour Market Statistical Bulletin which is available on the National Statistics website.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Indications of the sampling variability of LFS aggregate estimates are provided in the Statistical Bulletin.

Actual weekly hours of people aged 16 and over in full-time employment, three months ending November, 1992 to 2010, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Average actual weekly hours for full-time workers[1]	
	Men	*Women*
1992	40.1	34.3
1993	40.0	34.0
1994	40.6	34.4
1995	40.6	34.3
1996	40.8	34.7
1997	40.7	34.8
1998	40.5	34.5
1999	40.1	34.3
2000	39.8	34.2
2001	39.5	34.3
2002	39.3	34.0
2003	39.0	33.8
2004	39.2	34.1
2005	39.1	34.1
2006	38.8	34.0
2007	39.0	33.7
2008	38.8	33.7

Actual weekly hours of people aged 16 and over in full-time employment, three months ending November, 1992 to 2010, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

	Average actual weekly hours for full-time workers[1]	
	Men	Women
2009	38.7	33.7
2010	38.9	33.8

[1] Main-job only. The identification of full-time workers is based on respondents' self-classification.

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportation of Convicted Foreign Nationals

19. **Mr Raab:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure the deportation of foreign nationals convicted of criminal offences. [35109]

Damian Green: Tough enforcement is the cornerstone of this Government's immigration policy. We strongly believe that foreign law breakers should be removed from the UK at the earliest possible opportunity. We will seek to deport any foreign national criminal who meets our deportation criteria.

Gang-related Youth Violence: London

20. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of gang-related youth violence in London. [35110]

James Brokenshire: We engage in regular discussion with the Mayor of London and the Metropolitan police, and I know that both are strongly committed to tackling this problem. The Government also takes gang violence very seriously. New civil injunctions to tackle gangs will go live nationally on 31 January. I know that partners in London are already looking at the potential for using these new powers.

UK Border Agency

22. **Graeme Morrice:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work for the UK Border Agency. [35112]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's workforce was 23,235 full-time equivalents, at the end of December 2010, of which 21,588 are classed as 'staff'. The remainder are; 1,398 locally engaged, 161 agency workers and 88 Contractors and secondments.

Nottingham PCSOs

23. **Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely number of police community support officers in Nottinghamshire police at the end of the comprehensive spending review period. [35113]

Nick Herbert: This Government believes that police community support officers are a crucial part of the policing family providing a visible, uniformed presence on our streets. That is why we have maintained the Neighbourhood Policing fund for a transitional period until the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners. It is, however, ultimately for police forces and authorities, and in future for PCCs, to determine how they deploy their personnel.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are currently under restrictions from anti social behaviour orders in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* England and Wales. [35301]

James Brokenshire: The latest available data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued cover the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2008. The north-west region comprises the following Criminal Justice System (CJS) areas: Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the north-west region, and in England and Wales, are 3,560 and 16,999 respectively. These figures include ASBOs made on application which became available from 1 April 1999 and ASBOs made following conviction for a relevant criminal offence, which became available for offences committed on or after 2 December 2002.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (for a minimum of two years) or made until further order. Furthermore, courts have the power to vary ASBOs, including their durations and the details of any such variations are not centrally collected by the Ministry of Justice. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time except by reference to individual court files which could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

ASBO data for 2009 are due to be published on 25 January 2011.

British Citizenship

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals of each original nationality have been deprived of British citizenship in each year since the Immigration and Asylum Act 2006 came into force. [33472]

Damian Green: Section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 which relates to deprivation of British citizenship, came into force on 16 June 2006.

Since that date, nine individuals have been deprived of their British citizenship. Their original nationalities were one Australian, one Iraqi, one Pakistani, one Albanian, two Sudanese, one Russian, one Egyptian and one Lebanese. This information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such, it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Coroners: Legal Costs

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of *(a)* investigations by the Independent Police Complaints Commission and *(b)* inquests and other associated action relating to deaths during or following police contact including involving police vehicles in each financial year since 2007-08; [34523]

(2) if she will estimate the cost of legal representation for the state at completed inquests into cases relating to deaths during or following police contact including involving police vehicles in each financial year since 2007-08. [34531]

Nick Herbert: The relevant information is not collated centrally, nor held by the Home Office.

Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the level of reported crime *(a)* overall and *(b)* for each category of crime in each of the (i) 100 most deprived wards and (ii) 100 least deprived wards in each of the last five years. [35229]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* Information at ward level is not collected centrally. The lowest level for which the Home Office routinely collects crime data is for Community Safety Partnership areas.

Demonstrations: English Defence League

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received requesting consideration of banning the proposed English Defence League march in Luton on 5 February 2011; and if she will make a statement. [35580]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has received representations from councillors on Luton borough council and members of the public requesting consideration of a ban on the proposed march by the English Defence League (EDL) in Luton on 5 February. The Home Secretary has however received no formal application to ban the march.

Any application to ban a march would be considered against the legal tests in the Public Order Act 1986.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of subcontracted staff servicing her Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34815]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department does not hold information on the number and remuneration of staff employed by companies which are subcontracted to the Department's contractors. The exception is where employment agencies are contracted to provide temporary staff to the Department. The Department is able to confirm that temporary staff, who are on subcontracted terms to the agencies, are paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage.

Detainees: Sexuality

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to the participation of *(a)* women and *(b)* lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the detained fast-track procedure. [34910]

Damian Green: Entry to the detained fast-track procedure is determined by reference to published policy available on the UK Border Agency website. The policy lays out categories of claimant who, for reasons of particular vulnerability such as late pregnancy, children or serious disability, are excluded from entry to the process. For all other claimants, the key factor determining entry to the process is whether a quick, fair and sustainable decision can be taken on the case.

We do not intend to specifically add to an exclusion list all applicants on the basis of claimed or accepted gender, gender identity or sexuality. However, if on a case by case basis, any claimants from these groups are identified as having a claim of particular complexity, the general consideration referred to previously regarding amenability to a quick, fair and sustainable decision will apply.

Drugs: Crime

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding from her Department's drugs budget is allocated to *(a)* the criminal justice system, *(b)* drug treatment services and *(c)* drugs education. [35184]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Home Office budget is not divided into the categories in the question. The following budgets have been allocated for the financial period 2010-11:

	£ million
Drug Interventions Programme[1]	142
Drug Strategy Delivery[2]	1.28
Positive Futures programme[3]	6
YOT named drug worker[4]	8.5

[1] Funding for delivery of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), includes grants to local areas, grants and costs for drug testing and for the programme's information systems.
[2] Grant funding for a range of projects which supported delivery of the Drug Strategy in terms of developing innovation and best practice.
[3] Positive Futures programme provides grants to local prevention projects that target vulnerable and at risk 10 to 19-year-olds aiming to stop them from becoming drawn into crime and substance misuse and supporting them in moving forward with their lives.
[4] Funding to provide a named drugs worker in every Youth Offending Team in England and Wales.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of acquisitive crime attributable to *(a)* heroin addicts, *(b)* crack cocaine addicts, *(c)* cocaine addicts and *(d)* cannabis users in the latest period for which figures are available. [35185]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Home Office has not produced estimates of the proportion of acquisitive crime attributable to individual drug types.

The most recent Home Office estimate of the proportion of acquisitive crime which was related to the use of Class A drugs was published in 2005. This estimated that between one-third and a half of all acquisitive crime was related to use of Class A drugs.

Reference:

Macdonald, Z. et al (2005) 'Measuring the harm from illegal drugs using the Drug Harm Index' Home Office Online Report 24/05:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2405.pdf

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her review of student visas will examine the ability of students to bring their dependents with them to the UK. [35499]

Damian Green: On 7 December the Government launched a public consultation on reform of the student immigration system; copies are available in the House Library. Section 7 of the consultation considers limiting the entitlements of students to bring their family members with them to the UK.

Freedom Bill

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the Freedom Bill. [34990]

James Brokenshire: As set out in the Home Office business plan (published on 8 November 2010), we will introduce a Freedom Bill by February 2011.

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her strategy is for reducing the incidence of human trafficking. [35056]

Damian Green: Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. Our approach involves tackling organised crime groups who profit from this human misery and supporting protecting victims.

A new human trafficking strategy is currently in development, due for publication in the spring.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions by the competent authority regarding the National Referral Mechanism have been reversed since 1 April 2009; and if she will make a statement. [35227]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* Since the National Referral Mechanism commenced on 1 April 2009 there are 19 recorded cases where the decision has been formally reversed following reconsideration by the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority's decision is often the result of multi-agency consultation and will be reconsidered if significant additional information becomes available after the initial decision is made.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scope the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking has to examine policies and practices on human trafficking across Government. [35276]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Government recognise the importance of monitoring the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in the UK and our international obligations.

The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group has full scope to examine and monitor human trafficking policy and practices in the UK.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking has issued since its inception. [35277]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group does not issue reports.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department plans to take to control illegal immigration. [35093]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is committed to combating illegal immigration in line with the agency's strategic threat assessment and crime control strategy. By working with UK and international law enforcement organisations, the agency focuses its investigative effort to disrupt and dismantle organised crime networks that cause the greatest harm.

Over 55% of all passenger movements into and out of the UK are currently covered by the e-Borders system. This is being used to target would be illegal immigrants, as well as terrorist suspects and known criminals, before they cross the border. Additionally, a network of staff in key countries abroad issue biometric visas, collect intelligence and prevent people with forged documents from boarding planes, to prevent high risk individuals from entering the UK.

Teams working around the country investigate immigration offences and take action against illegal workers and those that employ them. The Government also allow only restricted access to a limited range of state funded benefits to those here illegally. The UK Border Agency deports foreign national prisoners and removes illegal immigrants who have no lawful basis to remain here, and who refuse to leave the country voluntarily.

This Government have committed to creating a new National Crime Agency. This will include a new Border Police Command to strengthen the operational response to organised crime and better secure our borders—a key national security requirement. This command will enable the development and execution of a single coherent border security strategy, drawing on a single national threat assessment. This will deliver our commitment, made in the coalition programme for government, to establish a border police force to "enhance national security, improve immigration controls and crack down on the trafficking of people, weapons and drugs".

Institute for Public Policy Research

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department provided to the Institute for Public Policy Research in 2008-09; and what the purposes were of such funding. [33736]

Damian Green: In 2008-09, the Home Office provided funding of £90,000 towards the "Economics of Migration" report by the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Kerb Crawling: Newham

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to prevent kerb crawling in the London borough of Newham. [35317]

James Brokenshire: The Government understand the nuisance and distress that is caused by kerb crawling and supports action to prevent it.

The prevention of kerb crawling in Newham is a matter for the Metropolitan police and other appropriate local agencies. The law has recently been changed to allow the police to arrest kerb crawlers without having to prove that they had engaged in this conduct persistently. We want to see the police use this measure where appropriate to apprehend those who engage in this activity.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer the letter sent to the Minister for Immigration by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 6 December 2010 with regard to Mrs Attia Akhtar. [34751]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 13 January 2011.

National DNA Database

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of *(a)* rape and *(b)* murder through evidence drawn from the National DNA Database. [35083]

James Brokenshire: Data on the number of convictions obtained in which DNA match evidence from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) was a contributory factor are not collected centrally.

Police: Demonstrations

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested by the Metropolitan police service for suspected offences in the course of demonstrations against tuition fees; and how many such people have been charged. [32618]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* As of 12 January, the total number of arrests resulting from each of the student protests was as follows:

Arrests

	Number
10 November	76
24 November	56
30 November	[1]153
	[2]21
9 December	53

[1] To prevent breach of the peace. [2] For substantive offences.

With regard to charges, two persons have so far been charged. However, the police will not charge individuals until they are satisfied that all the evidence of any offences committed on the day have been identified. This allows a proper investigation of all possible offences so that in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service, the police can consider the most appropriate charge, taking into account the seriousness of the offence or offences.

Police: Pensions

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she plans to publish the findings of the review of police pensions; [34979]

(2) what timetable she has set for the implementation of changes to the police service pension scheme. [34980]

Nick Herbert: The police pension schemes are included in the scope of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, which is due to produce its final report in March. The Government will respond thereafter. No timetable has been set for the implementation of any potential changes to the police pension schemes.

In response to the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission's interim report, the Government announced at the spending review that we will implement progressive changes to the level of employee contributions to public service pensions. These changes will be phased in from April 2012.

Any changes will be subject to the normal consultation processes in line with statutory requirements.

Police: Shropshire

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans her Department has for the future budget allocation for the recruitment and retention of police community support officers in the West Mercia police; [34954]

(2) how many community police officers were assigned to duties in Redditch constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [34995]

Nick Herbert: Information at constituency level is not held centrally. The following table shows police community support officer strength for the West Mercia police force by basic command unit, as at 31 March 2010.

West Mercia police community support officer strength by basic command unit, 31 March 2010[1, 2]

BCU	*Police community support officers (full-time equivalents)*
Hereford	37
North Worcestershire	57
Shropshire	80
South Worcestershire	59
Telford and the Wrekin	47
Central Services	0
	279

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

[2] Source—Home Office using data received from police forces via the Annual Data Requirement.

The Government announced on 13 December 2010 as part of the police funding settlement that, in recognition of the essential role police community support officers (PCSOs) play, the Neighbourhood Policing Fund will be maintained over the next two years, before being devolved to police and crime commissioners.

About 90% of the grant is ring-fenced for PCSOs, contributing up to 75% of their salary costs.

Decisions on the recruitment and retention of PCSOs are a matter for the chief constable of West Mercia police and the police authority.

Visas: Fingerprints

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has assessed the merits of introducing compulsory fingerprinting for visitors to the UK with visas. [34858]

Damian Green: The United Kingdom Border Agency introduced the collection of fingerprints for all visa applicants from 2007, and from 30 November 2009 have introduced the capability to verify the fingerprints of passengers with biometric visas on arrival at the UK border against the record which the passenger gave as part of the application process overseas. This process also applies to passengers with biometric entry clearances and biometric residence permits.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to make funding available for voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people. [34756]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to supporting the role of the voluntary and community sector in tackling youth crime and antisocial behaviour at a local level and responding to the needs of local communities, particularly in delivering diversionary programmes, interventions for offenders, and provision of accommodation for remand and resettlement. The Government will set out their plans for future funding in due course.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Combined Heat and Energy: Hospitals

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* promote the use of combined heat and power schemes in NHS hospitals and *(b)* improve energy efficiency in the health care sector. [34919]

Gregory Barker: The Department supports the health care sector in its efforts to improve its energy efficiency. Current activities include a workshop facilitated under the CHP Focus initiative, specifically targeted at NHS managers in order to promote take-up of combined heat and power (CHP) in the NHS estate. CHP Focus also comprises a free website and helpline service available to those wishing to deliver CHP, such as NHS trusts.

The Department also supports the work of the Department of Health and the Cabinet Office in promoting carbon reduction and energy efficiency solutions for the NHS and works closely with the NHS Sustainable Development Unit to promote awareness and carbon management across health care providers.

Combined Heat and Power

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the conversion efficiency of combined heat and power installations; and if he will make a statement. [34769]

Gregory Barker: The conversion efficiency of combined heat and power installations is undertaken within the UK's CHP quality assurance programme (CHPQA), the means by which the Government assess the environmental performance of CHP plants to ensure they deliver primary energy savings of at least 10%.

The conversion factors for the most recent gas-fired CHP plants certified under CHPQA demonstrate electrical efficiencies in the order of 33-39% and heat efficiencies in the order of 40-45%, depending on the size and type of the plant.

Departmental Staff Costs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the number of subcontracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34820]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold information on the number of subcontracted staff or their pay rates. The Department includes clauses within contracts to ensure suppliers provide the services in accordance with good industry practice and legal requirements.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35421]

Gregory Barker: In October 2010 the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change appointed two executive members to the board of the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (GEMA). One of these appointments was a reappointment for a second five-year term. Executive members of GEMA do not receive additional remuneration above their Ofgem salaries.

The Secretary of State reappointed the Chair and 12 members of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) for a second term of office from 1 November 2010. The CoRWM Chair, with a time commitment of approximately 1.5 days per week, receives remuneration of £450 per day. The Deputy Chair and remaining 11 members, with an average time commitment of one day per week, receive £380 per day and £300 per day respectively. Committee members are also entitled to reimbursement of all reasonable travel and subsistence costs necessarily incurred during the course of their work.

The Secretary of State appointed to the Civil Nuclear Police Authority in January 2011 an industry representative from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The appointment was on an ex officio basis and is unpaid.

Energy Supply

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the installed energy generation capacity is of each of the six largest *(a)* coal, *(b)* gas, *(c)* nuclear and *(d)* renewable energy producers as a percentage of the total. [35318]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the proportions of total installed capacity of the six largest (in terms of installed capacity) coal, gas, nuclear and renewables producers, as at May 2010.

	Company	*Percentage Share of Capacity*
Coal	EON	17
	RWE npower	16
	SSE	15
	EDF	14
	Drax	13
	Scottish Power	12
Gas	Centrica	15
	EON	11
	SSE	10
	RWE npower	9
	GDF Suez	7
	Scottish Power	7
Nuclear	EDF	86
	Magnox	14
Renewables	SSE	22
	Scottish Power	11
	RWE npower	8
	EON	5
	Fred Olsen	4
	Centrica	4

Shares of capacity are taken from data in table 5.11 of the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2010, available at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content//cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

Energy: EU Action

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his objectives are for the European Council meeting on energy security in February 2011. [35626]

Charles Hendry: The Prime Minister will be representing the UK at the European Council and he will be taking forward the UK objectives, which are: setting a long-term strategic vision for the move to a secure, sustainable and competitive low carbon economy by 2050; providing renewed political momentum to such a move; and agreeing on practical action to facilitate the necessary infrastructure investment, to improve how EU energy markets work and increase their integration, to support low carbon technologies and to encourage a step change in energy efficiency. The Council should also endorse the importance of the EU's external energy policy and the role of both the Commission and member states in this.

Energy: Meters

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the provision of adequate and prior notice of tariff changes by energy supply companies to people who pay for electricity through pre-payment meters. [35739]

Charles Hendry: The Government believe that domestic energy consumers should receive advance notification before a price increase becomes effective. We therefore support Ofgem's proposed licence modifications to ensure this and have made it clear that we will use powers in the Energy Act 2010 if Ofgem is unable to introduce these changes in a timely manner.

Energy: Production

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential contribution of sub-critical reactors to energy production. [35768]

Charles Hendry: We are aware that there are a number of reactor design proposals around the world, however, it is ultimately for industry to decide what type of reactor systems it will invest in.

As yet, industry has not indicated that they would be looking to develop and deploy sub-critical nuclear reactor designs in the UK in the near term future.

The Government's chief scientific adviser, Sir John Beddington, recently co-ordinated an assessment of the prospects for research into advanced accelerator driven thorium reactors, one type of sub-critical technology, with input from a number of sources. The conclusion was that, while the science is reasonably sound, the technology would carry major technology and commercial risks. The assessment further concluded that, for the UK, a watching brief on the area would be appropriate, but that it should not be a priority area for research in the context of constrained budgets.

The UK's National Nuclear Laboratory has also carried out an independent assessment of the thorium fuel cycle which included analysis on the use of accelerator driven systems (ADS). The report can also be found at:

www.nnl.co.uk/positionpapers

and notes in relation to ADS that the practical difficulties are "considered a major barrier to commercial implementation".

The Secretary of State has instructed officials to commission work to look further into the possible benefits of next generation reactor designs including the use of thorium fuel. We are currently considering the details of this work and we hope to include further assessment of ADS technology in the evaluation.

Energy: Profits

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent advice he has received from Ofgem on levels of profits achieved by companies in the domestic energy supply sector. [35741]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem is required by the Government to produce quarterly price reports that examine the relationship between wholesale energy costs and standard tariff energy bills for a typical customer. The latest report published in November 2010 showed large increases in supplier margins, due to recent increases in retail prices. We are disappointed on behalf of consumers by this development and welcome the announcement of Ofgem's review of the retail market. Ofgem will report on this review in March of this year. This announcement is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/PressRel/Documents1/Retail%20Market%2026%20November.pdf

Fuel Oil: Competition

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will request *(a)* the Office of Fair Trading and *(b)* the Competition Commission to launch an investigation into allegations of anti-competitive practices within the heating oil market; [35333]

(2) if he will investigate allegations of anti-competitive practices in the heating oil market; [35334]

(3) whether Ofgem is required to undertake any social obligation monitoring in respect of companies operating in the heating oil market; [35335]

(4) what regulatory regime applies to companies operating in the heating oil market. [35339]

Charles Hendry: The UK has an open and competitive market for heating oil. In contrast to gas and electricity markets, the heating oil market is not regulated by Ofgem. This is because Ofgem was set up to regulate the natural monopolies for gas and electricity distribution. There is no natural monopoly for heating oil distribution to consumers with a competitive supply market. Correspondingly Ofgem has no responsibilities in respect of companies operating in the heating oil market. Many suppliers do offer payment plans to spread costs over the year.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) monitors the heating oil market for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached and considers all complaints and representations carefully.

In response to the OFT's consultation on its annual plan to determine its work programme for the coming year, and mindful of the increases in heating oil prices during the recent severe weather, I have written to the OFT to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off grid energy.

Fuel Oil: Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on cost of domestic household heating oil; and if he will make a statement. [35018]

Charles Hendry: I have received various representations on the cost of domestic household heating oil during the recent severe weather.

The Government are very sympathetic to the predicament of those faced with rising costs. If there is evidence of uncompetitive practices, this should be referred to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which has responsibility for investigations into anti-competitive practice and market abuse. The OFT continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully and is monitoring for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached.

In response to the OFT's consultation on its annual plan to determine its work programme for the coming year, and mindful of the increases in heating oil prices during the recent severe weather, I have written to the OFT to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off grid energy.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to request oil companies to deliver amounts of domestic heating oil in smaller quantities to enable the most vulnerable to pay. [35054]

Charles Hendry: Bulk supply by tanker is the most economic form of delivery for heating oil. The Federation of Petroleum Suppliers has advised that the majority of meters fitted to road tankers used to deliver heating oil have a minimum delivery volume of 500 litres. The accuracy of the tank meter means there are minimum volumes for delivery and while pre-packaged smaller quantities of heating oil are available from some suppliers, the price per litre from packaged product is often significantly higher, due to the additional packaging storage and distribution costs incurred by the supplier.

Many suppliers also have payment plans to spread costs over the year.

In response to the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) consultation on its annual plan to determine its work programme for the coming year, and mindful of the increases in heating oil prices during the recent severe weather, I have written to the OFT to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off grid energy.

Fuel Oil: Regulation

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals for regulation of the heating oil market by Ofgem. [34888]

Charles Hendry: The regulation of gas and electricity markets promotes competition and regulates the monopoly companies which run the electricity and gas networks. There is no natural monopoly for supply and distribution in the heating oil market.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully, and monitor for indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached.

In response to the OFT's consultation on its annual plan to determine its work programme for the coming year, and mindful of the increases in heating oil prices during the recent severe weather, I have written to the OFT to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off grid energy.

Heating: Rural Areas

Rory Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to reduce the cost of heating for those in rural communities. [34927]

Charles Hendry: I have received various representations on the cost of domestic household heating oil during the recent severe weather.

The Government are very sympathetic to the predicament of those faced with rising costs. If there is evidence of uncompetitive practices, this should be referred to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) which has responsibility for investigations into anti-competitive practice and market abuse. The OFT continues to consider all complaints and representations carefully and is monitoring for any indications that consumer or competition legislation has been breached.

In response to the OFT's consultation on its annual plan to determine its work programme for the coming year, and mindful of the increases in heating oil prices during the recent severe weather, I have written to the OFT to ask it to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off grid energy.

Hydrocarbons

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* licensing, *(b)* planning and *(c)* environmental consents need to be secured by developers before any exploratory drilling for (i) coalbed methane and (ii) shale gas proceeds; and whether the Committee on Climate Change will consider the effects of the extraction of (A) shale gas and (B) coalbed methane. [34851]

Charles Hendry: It is the responsibility of each particular company to identify and comply with all legal and regulatory provisions that impinge upon him when carrying out operations of any kind. It is not possible to list every such provision that might arise, but in a typical case of a company seeking to explore for or produce hydrocarbons onshore in the UK, all the following bodies and provisions will have to be considered:

the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which administers a licensing system under the Petroleum Act 1998, and which authorises each particular drilling and development activity;

the planning authority (generally the local authority), from which the company would require planning permission;

the relevant environmental agency (in England and Wales, the Environment Agency, and in Scotland, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) who regulate discharges to the environment as well being a statutory consultee in the planning process;

the Health and Safety Executive which regulates the process safety aspects of this work, which contributes to mitigating the risk of environmental risks; and

the Coal Authority (in the case of coalbed methane) which regulates access to the nation's coal.

It is not for me to say what issues the Committee on Climate Change will consider.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate his Department has made of the full system cost to the public purse of meeting the UK's contribution to the EU renewable energy target for 2020 through *(a)* nuclear, *(b)* carbon capture and storage coal, *(c)* onshore wind, *(d)* offshore wind, *(e)* tidal and *(f)* solar technologies. [34836]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: It is estimated that meeting the UK 2020 15% renewable energy target may require around 30% of electricity to come from renewable sources, but there is no target for the electricity sector, nor for individual technologies. Onshore wind, offshore, tidal and solar technologies are expected to contribute to meeting the target, incurring expenditure through the renewables obligation (RO) and feed-in tariffs (FITs) that have been defined by the Office for National Statistics as 'tax and spend'. Nuclear and carbon capture and storage coal are not classified as renewables and will not be able to contribute to the 2020 target.

The following table shows the estimated cumulative expenditure from 2011 to 2020 through the RO and FITs on onshore wind, offshore wind, tidal and solar technologies.

Technology	*Expenditure through RO and FITs (2010 prices discounted to 2011) (£ billion)*
Onshore wind	8.3
Offshore wind	14
Tidal	1.1
Solar PV	2.5

Source:
DECC calculations based on 2009 modelling by Redpoint and the lead scenario in the Final FITs Impact Assessment published in February 2010

This is based on 2009 and 2010 analysis of one potential scenario amongst many. The exact shares of effort between sectors and technologies will depend on how investors respond to the renewable financial incentives put in place, and the relative success in overcoming non-financial barriers to renewables deployment such as planning, supply chain and grid issues.

We are currently reviewing the level of support for all renewable electricity technologies under the RO, and will consult on any changes to RO bands this summer. As part of that process, we have asked our consultants Arup and Ernst & Young to provide updated assumptions on potential deployment and costs for each renewable electricity technology. The Government are also currently consulting on reforms to the electricity market, including options for a phased transition from the RO to a feed-in tariff for large-scale generation. Both of these developments are expected to change the Government's assessments of the total public cost of meeting the UK's share of the

2020 renewables target. The Government are committed to controlling the cost of increasing the deployment of renewable technologies and have brought forward the review of the renewable obligation mechanism.

Note that these figures represent the total level of public support[1]. The Renewable Energy Strategy 2009 published lower public support cost figures based on the additional level of public support resulting from the increase in renewables ambition, on a different price basis.

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[1] The costs of the renewables obligation and feed-in tariffs fall on electricity suppliers who pass them on to electricity consumers. In the case of FITs, public support costs are estimated in 'net' terms ie net of the value of electricity exported back to the grid.

Sheffield Forgemasters

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 981W, on Sheffield Forgemasters, what the dates of his discussions with ministerial colleagues were; which Ministers were involved; whether the discussions were part of a formal meeting; whether minutes or notes were taken; what the outcomes of the discussions were; and whether the discussions are ongoing. [35006]

Charles Hendry: The Secretary of State regularly discusses a wide variety of issues with ministerial colleagues.

There were no formal discussions on Sheffield Forgemasters and therefore there is no record of these discussions. Following the decision to withdraw the loan officials worked with the company to try to help to achieve a private sector solution as reported at the time the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 8 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 506.

Solar Energy

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 259W, on solar energy, whether he intends to intervene to prevent any *(a)* applications for solar farms currently in planning and *(b)* future applications to the feed-in tariffs scheme from proceeding. [35007]

Charles Hendry: Following the spending review announcement last October, and our concerns about proposed large industrial-scale green field solar farms distorting the available funding for roof top and other innovative solar technologies, my officials are monitoring the situation closely. We stand ready to take measures to limit the access of such schemes to FITs if that is shown to be necessary.

The Government will not act retrospectively and any changes implemented will only affect new entrants into the FITs scheme. Installations which are already accredited for FITs will not be affected.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 259W, on solar energy, what proportion of feed-in tariff funds for solar photovoltaics have been allocated to *(a)* individual households, *(b)* community schemes, *(c)* non-community based solar farms and *(d)* other schemes in each quarter since the scheme began; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of funding to be allocated to each such category of scheme in each quarter until the review date of the scheme. [35008]

Charles Hendry: The information is not available in the format requested. Quarterly statistics on feed-in tariffs (FITs) are published by both DECC and Ofgem and currently cover the first two quarters of the FITs scheme (April to September 2010). This confirms that of the 10,531 solar photovoltaic installations accredited for FITs in that period, 99.2% were domestic, 0.4% commercial, 0.4% community and there was one industrial scheme (under 0.01%). The total FITs payments over this period for all technologies was £2,686,712.55.

Under the FITs scheme, funds are not allocated in the manner described. However, the analysis and projections undertaken by the previous Administration which informed the FITs impact assessment suggested that in the first three years of the scheme (April 2010 to March 2013) only PV installations of 0-4kW would be incentivised under the scheme.

HEALTH

Alcohol: Misuse

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females are registered as alcohol-dependent in (i) England, (ii) the North East and (iii) Easington constituency. [35261]

Anne Milton: There is no scheme or requirement for registration by alcoholics with the national health service. The adult psychiatric morbidity survey, 'Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007' (APMS), was published in January 2009, covering adults living in private households in England. It includes information on the prevalence of alcohol use and dependence by age, sex, region and other factors. National and regional estimates of the number and percentage of alcohol dependent males and females are in the following table. No estimates are available below regional level.

Estimate of the number and percentage of alcohol dependent[1] males and females nationally and in the north-east, 2007

	Males aged 16 or over		Females aged 16 or over	
	Estimated number	Estimated percentage	Estimated number	Estimated percentage
North-east	100,000	10.2	40,000	3.7
England	1,200,000	5.8	400,000	1.9

[1] Scoring 16 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test

Blood Diseases: Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to promote the professional development of sickle cell anaemia practitioners; if he will assess the merits of making the Sickle Cell Adult and Child Care Standards a minimum requirement for practitioners, with penalties in place for non-compliance; and if he will make a statement. [34881]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the professional regulators. Their role is that of custodian of quality standards in education and practice. These bodies have a responsibility to ensure that health care practitioners are equipped to deal with the problems they will encounter in practice.

The Department is aware of the need to ensure perceived areas of weakness in training curricula in respect of sickle cell anaemia are addressed. For that reason, in 2010 health officials met with representatives of the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia All-Party Parliamentary Group and other relevant organisations, including the health Royal Colleges to promote awareness and the appropriate coverage of these conditions in training curricula. As a result curricula were reviewed and a number of changes and additions have been implemented and arrangements established to co-ordinate future liaison and proposals to raise awareness of sickle cell and thalassaemia.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the ability of people diagnosed with sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia to access appropriate treatment; whether he has assessed the merits of increasing the level of resources available for such purposes; and if he will make a statement. [34882]

Anne Milton: The Department has made no such assessments. Responsibility for access to treatment, and the resourcing, planning, delivery and improvements in services for people diagnosed with sickle cell and thalassaemia are the responsibility of local commissioners and providers.

The Department has supported a range of initiatives to improve access to quality services for sickle cell and thalassaemia working with key partners, including funding the East Midlands Specialised Commissioning Group to produce standards of care for trusts and service models for commissioners in high and low prevalence areas and integrated pathways of care for patients.

The development of a national screening programme for sickle cell and thalassaemia has ensured that all expectant women (and fathers-to-be where relevant) are offered screening for sickle cell disease and thalassaemia. In addition all newborns are offered screening for sickle cell. This allows newly born infants with sickle cell disease to receive a definitive diagnosis of their condition, ensuring that prompt and specific treatment can begin immediately.

Screening, combined with effective follow-up and treatment, helps ensure that babies with sickle cell disease stay well. Out of 669,427 babies tested in England in 2008-09, 360 babies received a screen positive result.

The Department has also supported the development of a competence framework for nurses caring for those with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia to ensure the highest standard of care is provided at all times.

Note:

Figures provided by the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme.

Cancer

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average time a cancer patient will wait from diagnosis to an appointment with a specialist in *(a)* 2011 and *(b)* 2012. [35196]

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for a patient to see a cancer specialist in *(a)* Wirral primary care trust, *(b)* primary care trusts in the North West and *(c)* England. [35296]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, has confirmed that the current cancer waiting time standards are clinically justified and should be retained. This follows a full review of the evidence base supporting cancer waiting times. A copy of the Strategy has already been placed in the Library.

In the most recent period for which statistics are available (Quarter Two 2010-11), 95% of patients in England urgently referred with suspected cancer by their general practitioner (GP) were seen by a specialist within two weeks. For primary care trusts (PCTs) in the North West, this figure was 95.8% and for patients served by Wirral PCT the figure was 97.6%. In England, 98.4% of patients were treated 31 days from diagnosis to first treatment for all cancers.

The NHS Constitution includes the right to see a specialist within two weeks of urgent GP referral, where cancer is suspected, or for the NHS to take all reasonable steps to offer a range of alternative providers where this is not possible. "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12" confirms that patient rights under the constitution remain in place.

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether cancer patients are to be included in the group of patients with a long-term condition to be offered a care plan as proposed in his Department's consultation on choice and control in the NHS; [35432]

(2) whether cancer is to be included as part of the long-term conditions outcome measure in the new NHS outcomes framework; [35433]

(3) whether a commitment to care plans for cancer survivors is to be included in his Department's refreshed cancer reform strategy. [35434]

Paul Burstow: All people living with one or more long-term conditions, including those with cancer, should be offered a personalised care plan to support improved choice and control. The NHS Outcomes Framework includes a domain for long-term conditions defined as conditions that are not cured but are managed using therapy and/or medication; this includes cancer. 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer', published on 12 January 2011, sets out the principles for improved care and support for cancer survivors that the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative has developed. These principles include a care plan following cancer treatment. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Finance

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals his Department has for the future funding of residential care home places. [33816]

Paul Burstow: In July 2010, the Government established the independent Commission on the Funding of Care and Support to make recommendations on how to achieve an affordable and sustainable funding system or systems for care and support for all adults in England, both in the home and other settings.

The Commission is due to report by July this year. More information about its work can be found online at:

www.dilnotcommission.dh.gov.uk

Carers

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department will provide for the training of carers after March 2011. [35441]

Paul Burstow: The provision of training and other similar support to carers is largely a matter for local determination, by the national health service and local authorities.

The Caring with Confidence programme ended in September 2010. Government announced in October 2010 that over £4 million previously earmarked for the programme was being reinvested across 11 projects, these include:

£1.8 million funding to a range of voluntary sector organisations supporting carers including the Afiya Trust, in recognition of the particular needs and challenges faced by carers from ethnic minority communities;

over £1 million funding for training and carer awareness raising for key health and social professionals being delivered by Skills for Care and Skills for Health and training for general practitioners (GPs) and their practice staff being carried out by the Royal College of GPs; and

£1.35 million funding for a grant scheme aimed at encouraging bids from patient led and condition related organisations wishing to do more to support carers by reaching out to people who do not necessarily see themselves as carers. We received over 270 bids from a wide range of organisations and plan to fund over 80 organisations who were successful bidders.

The Government have also made all the training materials from Caring with Confidence available free of charge on the Carers Direct website and worked with the national carers' organisations and other interested parties to promote their availability. The materials can be used at a local level to support the continued provision of training to carers.

Departmental Staff Costs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of subcontracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34816]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not held centrally. The Department holds two contracts with suppliers for the provision of cleaning, catering, security and other facilities management services to the Department's London estate. The contracts are awarded through a competitive tender process based on the best overall value for money solution for the Department.

General Practitioners: Wolverhampton

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs in Wolverhampton received over £100,000 from the NHS in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [34791]

Mr Simon Burns: Details of individual general practitioners (GPs) earning over £100,000 in the national health service for Wolverhampton are not collected centrally.

The most up-to-date information on the overall numbers of GPs earning in excess of £100,000 is contained within the 'GP Earnings and Expenses 2008-09 Final Report', published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre on 12 January 2011.

A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Wards: Children

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to exempt paediatric wards from his proposals to eliminate mixed-sex wards in NHS hospitals. [35078]

Mr Simon Burns: There are no exemptions to delivering high standards of privacy and dignity. The national health service is expected to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation, except where it is "in the overall best interests of the patient, or reflects patient choice". However, same sex requirements allow sufficient flexibility to provide scope for specialist facilities for children and young people, where patients may choose to share facilities on the basis of age and diagnosis, rather than gender. In this context, the choice has to be a genuine one—not influenced by background factors such as staff convenience, the poor state of buildings or lack of facilities. If the child would prefer to be nursed in proximity to members of the same sex, then this preference should where possible be accommodated.

The Department has made available guidance[1,2] which specifically focuses on children. This makes clear that decisions about where children and young people receive their care should be based on the clinical, psychological and social needs of the individual child or young person. It states that this approach be conveyed to the child, (where they are old enough to understand), and to their parents/carers. In emphasising that young people be offered choice, there remains an emphasis that the location and environment are; safe, healthy, child-friendly and suitable to their age/stage of development.

This guidance was developed following extensive consultation with clinical staff and patient representative groups.

[1] A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefnursingofficerletters/DH_098894

[2] A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.institute.nhs.uk/images//documents/DSSA/Updates_August_2010/20102503%20dh_TT%20Children_YP.pdf

Maternity Services

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he will use to achieve the outcomes identified in his Department's NHS outcomes framework 2011-12 in respect of maternity care. [35269]

Anne Milton: The recently published "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12" sets out the national outcome measures that will be used to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account. The Secretary of State for Health will not be setting out how these outcomes should be delivered.

It will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to determine how best to deliver improvements by working with general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia and making use of the various tools and levers it will have at its disposal. These include the library of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standards; the Commissioning Outcomes Framework, which the NHS Commissioning Board will use to hold GP commissioning consortia to account; and other payment mechanisms between the NHS Commissioning Board, commissioners and providers. These are described more fully in both "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12" and "Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps", which can be accessed via the following links:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123138.pdf

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122661

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

Mobility

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of expenditure by primary care trusts on meeting the mobility needs of under-65s living in residential care in the latest period for which figures are available. [35673]

Paul Burstow: Information on primary care trust expenditure has never been collected in the level of detail necessary to estimate their expenditure on meeting the mobility needs of under-65s living in residential care. This is because the essential business needs of the Department cannot justify the additional administrative burden on the bodies that would have to provide the data.

NHS: Contracts

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that no US health organisation indicted for defrauding doctors, patients or taxpayers will be allowed to enter into contracts with *(a)* GP consortia and *(b)* the NHS. [34895]

Mr Simon Burns: Arrangements for contracts with general practitioner (GP) consortia for clinical services have yet to be determined, as the creation of GP consortia is subject to parliamentary approval. In future, again subject to parliamentary approval of its proposed new roles, Monitor will develop and agree with the Secretary of State criteria for determining who constitutes a fit person for the purposes of contracting for national health service-funded clinical services. Good procurement practice and current supporting national guidance highlights the importance of rigorous due diligence as part of the initial pre-qualification questionnaire.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase whistleblower rights and protections for NHS staff. [35629]

Anne Milton: Whistleblowers in the national health service are already protected from detriment by law.

A number of improvements have recently been made for NHS staff who wish to raise concerns. Guidance has been published providing advice to NHS organisations on how to implement and review whistleblowing arrangements in line with best practice. We have provided staff with a contractual right to raise concerns in the public interest. We have also recently consulted on proposed amendments to the NHS constitution to emphasise the existing rights and duties for staff and we are analysing the response.

We also intend to explore with NHS staff further measures to provide a safe and independent authority to whom they can turn when their own organisation is not listening.

NHS: Negligence

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of NHS Trusts that are not primary care trusts are members of the NHS Litigation Authority's Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts. [35555]

Mr Simon Burns: All national health service trusts are members of the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts.

NHS: Standards

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts have escalated to Resource Escalation Action Plan level 4 since 1 November 2010; and on how many occasions such an escalation has occurred in each NHS trust in that period. [35630]

Mr Simon Burns: Resource Escalation Action Plan (REAP) is a system used by ambulance trusts only to enable ambulance trusts to maintain the delivery of patient services. REAP levels are not reported into the Department centrally, but are used by individual ambulance trusts to manage increases in demand on an escalating sliding scale.

During the swine flu pandemic in 2009-10, the Department did collect the REAP level data nationally, but this was to assist the Department's National Incident

Coordination Centre (NICC) in national co-ordination of the wider health and social care response during the pandemic.

The REAP plan is essentially a set of pre-agreed actions to manage escalating demand by increasing capacity. It is always in operation, normally at level one, but higher levels are triggered as demand increases.

Further information on REAP can be found on the Ambulance Leadership Forum website at:

www.ambulanceleadershipforum.org/

Out-of-Area Treatment

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consideration he has given to the effects of differences in health care commissioning practices between England and the devolved Administrations; [34758]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the cross-border commissioning protocol in ensuring adherence to the principle that no commissioner shall be disadvantaged by providing services to the other country's residents; [34759]

(3) what recent discussions he has had on the expiration of the cross-border commissioning protocol; and if he will make a statement. [34760]

Mr Simon Burns: While there are very significant areas of commonality in health provision in the home nations, there are already some divergences that reflect the differing local priorities, health being a devolved issue, and it is the responsibility of each administration to identify and address these priorities.

The Department participates in discussions with local health boards in Wales, primary care trusts and the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that funding and commissioning issues arising from the differences in health provision regimes are understood. The cross-border commissioning protocol exists to define the commissioning and payment arrangements for patients living along the Anglo-Welsh border. It is the mechanism through which the two health Departments address the principle that neither commissioners nor patients should be disadvantaged by differences in health commissioning or provision processes between the two countries. The other key principle under the protocol is that the patient's safety and well being must be paramount at all times. No treatment must be refused or delayed due to uncertainty or ambiguity as to funding the health care provision.

The Secretary of State for Health met Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 December 2010 and wrote to the Minister of Health and Social Security for the Welsh Assembly Government following the meeting to say that departmental officials remained committed to agreeing an appropriate level of financial transfer to the Welsh Assembly Government arising from issues around national tariff rates and how these are applied to Wales.

The cross-border commissioning protocol is due to expire on 31 March 2011 and officials from the Department are also in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government with the intention of renewing the protocol, to run seamlessly from 2011. Until the forthcoming changes to the manner in which health care in England is commissioned are finalised in the Health and Social Care Bill currently going through Parliament, the intention is that no substantial changes to the cross-border protocol should be introduced. For this reason, the protocol is expected to be renewed for just one year.

Pain: Medical Treatments

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence develops a specific quality standard for pain as a stand-alone condition. [35834]

Mr Simon Burns: Additional work, to assess the feasibility and scope for a quality standard for pain relief, for both adults and children, is required before it can be referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for them to develop a quality standard on that topic. NICE will provide that assessment later in the year.

Further details about NICE's quality standards programme can be found on the institute's website, including details of published and developing standards that, where appropriate, address the issue of pain management as part of an integrated care pathway.

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qualitystandards/moreinfoaboutnicequalitystandards.jsp

Prescriptions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the electronic transmission of prescriptions project. [35063]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement on the National Programme for Information Technology that I made on 9 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS. There are no plans to further review the electronic prescription service, previously known as the electronic transmission of prescriptions programme.

Public Health Service

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on preventing primary care trusts decommissioning public health services before the introduction of the public health service outlined in the NHS White Paper. [35444]

Anne Milton: The 'NHS Operating Framework 2011/12' states that the national health service must continue to lead on improvements to public health, ensuring that public health services are in the strongest possible position when responsibilities are devolved to local authorities.

During transition, overall accountability for delivery will remain with the existing organisations in the system. Strategic health authorities will be accountable for delivery and for overseeing the transition in their region up to April 2012 and primary care trusts will remain statutorily accountable up to April 2013.

Slaughterhouses: Horses

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many horses were slaughtered in UK abattoirs in the last year for which figures are available. [35578]

Anne Milton: Between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2010 7,933 equines were slaughtered in red meat slaughterhouses in England, Scotland and Wales.

Smoking: Health Services

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on advertising and marketing NHS smoking cessation services in each quarter of 2010. [35442]

Anne Milton: The Department's estimated expenditure on advertising and marketing for national health service smoking cessation services in each quarter of 2010 is shown in the following table:

	£
Q4 (January to March)	861,456
Q1 (April to June)	26,000
Q2 (July to September)	0
Q3 (October to December)	0

Figures are provisional and unaudited and are based on total advertising and marketing expenditure directly spent on promoting NHS smoking cessation services across the range of marketing channels, including advertising media, direct and relationship marketing, partnership marketing, digital marketing, public relations, events and publications.

The local NHS also spends money promoting NHS Stop Smoking Services, details of which are held by local NHS organisations and are not held centrally.

The majority of the 2010 spend took place during the January to March 2010 period. A high expenditure during this period is common as it is the key season for quitting smoking.

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many quit attempts NHS smoking cessation services recorded in each quarter of 2010. [35443]

Anne Milton: Information on people setting a quit date, through the national health service Stop Smoking services, and successful quitters by quarter in 2010, is shown in the following table:

Number of people in England setting a quit date and successful quitters[1] in 2010

Quarters 1 to 3	*Number setting a quit date*	*Number of successful quitters*	*Percentage who successfully quit*
January to March 2010	243,206[2]	124,792	51
April to June 2010	183,030[3]	85,749	47
July to September 2010	158,425[3]	76,504	48

[1] A client counted as having successfully quit smoking at the four-week follow-up if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after quit date.

[2] Quarterly data, which have been finalised by The Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics.

[3] Quarterly data have been published for the first two quarters of 2010-11. These data remain provisional until the end of year 2010-11 report is published, expected to be in August 2011.

Source:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics.

The data on the number of quit attempts for quarters two and three are provisional. Provisional data for quarter four are expected to be published in August 2011.

Information on people setting a quit date and successful quitters, by quarter, 2001-02 to 2009-10 is contained within table 2.2 of 'Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2009 to March 2010'.

This publication has been placed in the Library.

Swine Flu: COE Countries

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* outcomes of measures to tackle swine flu in other Council of Europe member states. [34930]

Anne Milton: The European Commission has carried out two reviews of the H1N1 pandemic response across the European Union and European economic area. The reviews provide helpful benchmarks across a range of areas, including communications, co-ordination of public health measures, and availability and use of antivirals and vaccines. These reviews can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/communicable_diseases/docs/assessment_response_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/health/communicable_diseases/docs/assessment_vaccine_en.pdf

On spend, the Department does not hold benchmark comparisons. This is partly due to the different approaches used by countries as to what factors are included. Also the commercial confidentiality of contracts for countermeasures restricts benchmarking.

Waiting Lists

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients in the NHS have been treated by non-NHS providers as a consequence of the provisions of the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Heath Authorities (Waiting Times) Directions 2010; and if he will make a statement; [35511]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of primary care trusts in complying with their legal requirements under the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Heath Authorities (Waiting Times) Directions 2010; and if he will make a statement. [35512]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect information on how many patients have been treated by non-national health service providers as a consequence of the 'Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities (Waiting Times) Directions 2010'.

The Department has not made an assessment of the effectiveness of primary care trusts in complying with their legal duty to commission services that meet maximum waiting times standards and to offer redress to patients who wait longer if they request it.

The right to access services within maximum waiting times remains in the NHS constitution. NHS organisations need to be able to demonstrate that they have met patients' rights and fulfilled their obligations.

TRANSPORT

Ambulance Services: Accidents

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many emergency response ambulances have been involved in a road traffic accident in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [35536]

Mike Penning: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one ambulance in Great Britain in each of the last three years for which figures are available is given in the following table:

	Number of accidents
2007	304
2008	260
2009	288

It is not possible to identify emergency response ambulances as the data are based on a "body type" of vehicles involved and therefore all types of ambulances are included in the data table.

Blue Badge Scheme: Older People

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to make all people aged over 65 eligible for the Blue Badge scheme. [35182]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 21 January 2011]*: Eligibility for the Blue Badge scheme is set out in legislation. The Government have no plans to extend eligibility to all people aged over 65 and believe that badges should be issued on the basis of need, not age. The accessibility benefits offered by the scheme should be protected for the benefit of those disabled people who most rely on being able to park close to jobs, shops and services.

Cycling: Accidents

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cyclists were involved in reported road traffic accidents in Great Britain in each of the last five years. [35242]

Mike Penning: The information requested is published in "Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2009 Annual Report". The number of pedal cycles involved in reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain by year is available from Table 10. The number of pedal cycle casualties involved in such accidents is available from Table 6c.

Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This report can also be found at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221549/227755/rrcgb2009.pdf

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of accidents involving cyclists in Great Britain in each of the last five years. [35243]

Mike Penning: The number of reported pedestrian casualties in collisions with pedal cyclists in Great Britain in each of the last five years is given in following table:

	Number of casualties	
	Injured	*Killed*
2005	276	3
2006	223	3
2007	225	4
2008	260	1
2009	292	0

The above figures include pedestrian casualties from collisions involving cyclists only. Where other vehicles were involved in the collision besides a cyclist, pedestrian casualties have been excluded.

Driving Instruction: Training

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the residential location is of each entrant on the Approved Driving Instructor Register according to the Rural/Urban Local Authority Classification. [35386]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency can provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the residential location is of each relevant entrant on the Approved Driving Instructor Register according to the Scottish Executive Rural/Urban Local Authority Classification. [35387]

Mike Penning: The Driving Standards Agency can provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Diabetes

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to place a requirement on young drivers who are diabetic to check regularly their insulin levels for the purposes of preventing a hypoglycaemic attack while driving. [35221]

Mike Penning: There are no current plans to place additional requirements on drivers who are diabetic. All drivers with insulin treated diabetes are already required by law to notify the Secretary of State, in practice the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, of their condition. Drivers notifying the Agency are required to confirm whether they monitor their blood glucose regularly and this information is considered when deciding whether to issue a driving licence.

Highways Agency: Telephone Services

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has set a target for reducing the number of calls to the Highways Agency public helpline which are unanswered. [35225]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Highways Agency information line (0300 1235000) has an internal target to have no more than 10% of calls abandoned where the customer has waited for at least one minute. Despite recent demand the current rate of abandoned calls for the year to date stands at 6.3%, well within target.

HM Coastguard: Manpower

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff left HM Coastguard service *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* involuntarily in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and what the level of (i) internal and (ii) external staff turnover was in each such year. [34846]

Mike Penning: In respect of staff leaving HM Coastguard the following are figures covering the period 2003 to 2010.

	Type		
	Involuntary	*Voluntary*	*Total*
2001	[1]—	[1]—	—
2002	[2]—	[2]—	—
2003	9	30	39
2004	5	37	42
2005	3	45	48
2006	8	44	52
2007	6	41	47
2008	3	44	47
2009	6	26	32
2010	8	43	51

[1] No data
[2] Incomplete

In respect of internal and external turnover the following are the figures covering the period 2003 to 2010.

Type: External	*Percentage*
2001	[1]—
2002	[2]—
2003	7.32
2004	7.88
2005	9.01
2006	9.76
2007	8.82
2008	8.82
2009	6.00
2010	9.57

[1] No data
[2] Incomplete

The data the hon. Member has requested in respect of 2001 and 2002 are not in a readily accessible format. Due to the format the Maritime Coastguard Agency record turnover data it is also not possible to provide reliable figures for the internal turnover of staff.

HM Coastguard: Tugboats

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for emergency ship towing after the removal of tugboats as a result of his proposed new structure for HM Coastguard. [34847]

Mike Penning: The decision not to continue public funding of emergency towing vessels recognises that towage and salvage are matters that are properly the responsibility of ship owners and operators.

In relation to emergency ship towing, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) aims to meet all interested parties to discuss how incident management will be undertaken after the current contract for emergency towing vessels expires in September 2011. The first meeting has been arranged for Edinburgh on 4 March.

Although our decision not to renew the contract for emergency towing vessels, and the proposals I launched on 16 December for modernising the coastguard service, form part of the Department's response to the comprehensive spending review, the matters are not connected. Modernising the coastguard is about how best to provide a national search and rescue co-ordination service fit for the 21st century.

HS2 Tunnel

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the construction of the route from the second HS2 tunnel from Chalk Farm to St Pancras will involve taking over any land or buildings not presently used for railway purposes. [32532]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* Current plans mean the proposed High Speed 2/High Speed 1 link will emerge from tunnel on to existing railway land at the site of the disused Primrose Hill station. It would then continue on the surface, using the existing North London line through Camden Road station and on to the existing HS1 connection. Detailed design for the hybrid Bill would confirm the extent of the alterations, but at this stage we do not expect that any land outside the existing railway boundary would be required.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Sarah Newton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people paid vehicle excise duty for less than 12 months in each of the last five years. [35852]

Mike Penning: The following table provides the number of six-month vehicle excise duty discs purchased in Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the last five financial years.

	Great Britain	*Northern Ireland*
2005-06	19,834,316	248,458
2006-07	19,699,346	247,211
2007-08	20,122,136	253,919
2008-09	20,004,072	254,409
2009-10	20,145,054	257,552

Motorways: M1

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 348-49W, on motorways: M1, which part of the M1 North and Southbound was closed on Monday 6 December 2010 and which part was closed on Sunday 28 November 2010 between 2 pm and 10 pm. [35586]

Mike Penning: On Monday 6 December the M1 was closed southbound between Junction 20 and 21 from 06:01 to 15:08.

On Sunday 28 November the M1 was closed southbound between junctions 12 and 13 from 14:17 until 17:32. Residual delays remained in the area until 19:11.

Prince William: Marriage

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the likely financial effect on those organising street parties and other road-based events to mark the Royal Wedding on 29 April 2011 of proposed changes to the procedure for road closure notices. [34630]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* There are no current proposals to change the regulations and published advice on 'special event' traffic regulation orders (TROs), used by local authorities to close roads for temporary events, but I am examining the issues for authorities in England in the context of our Traffic Signs Policy Review.

The regulations and published advice for 'special event' TROs are distinct from those applying to other TROs, and are not prescriptive. Local procedures applying to road closures for street parties are therefore determined by the relevant local authorities. The financial effects of their procedures are matters for those authorities. English local authorities should avoid implementing unnecessarily expensive or burdensome procedures.

It is for the Welsh Assembly Government to consider the relevant procedures that apply in Wales.

Public Transport: Visual Impairment

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals for a right to accessible public travel information for blind and partially-sighted people. [34638]

Norman Baker: The Transport Act 2000 empowers local transport authorities in England and Wales to determine what local bus information, including information relating to facilities for disabled passengers, should be made available to the public and the way in which it should be made available.

It is expected that under the proposed EU regulation on bus and coach passenger rights, that operators and terminal managing bodies would be required to provide passengers with adequate information throughout their travel. Where feasible, this should be provided in accessible formats upon request. Negotiation of that regulation should conclude in the next few months, with the final text then published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union. As a regulation it would have direct application two years after its publication.

The Department for Transport commissioned a research project to investigate the costs and benefits of installing audio visual systems on buses, and to consider ways of increasing the take-up of these systems. This project will provide guidance for local authorities and bus operators as to the benefits of audio visual systems and ways of implementing them.

Railways: High Speed Trains

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations he has received on the performance of high-speed rail services through the Channel Tunnel in December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [34613]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Transport has received only a very limited number of direct representations regarding the performance of high-speed rail services through the Channel Tunnel in December.

Nevertheless the Department continues to review a range of winter resilience issues. While extreme weather will always cause at least some disruption, we will be working with transport operators to ensure lessons are learned from the recent events to try to minimise inconvenience to passengers.

Railways: North West

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to consult on changes to the Trans-Pennine Rail Franchise. [35668]

Mrs Villiers: During the life of the franchise, the train operating company is responsible for consulting on any proposed changes to services. The Department for Transport will initiate stakeholder consultation on a replacement for the present TransPennine Express rail franchise around six months before issuing an Invitation to Tender.

Railways: Standards

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much each train company paid in compensation as a result of service delays in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [32989]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information in the form requested.

Train companies pay compensation to passengers for delays and other matters arising from poor service, under the terms of their passengers' charters. The terms of each operator's passengers' charter are set out in their respective franchise agreements.

Railways: Waste Disposal

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on changes to regulations which permit train operating companies to operate sanitary facilities on trains which discharge waste directly onto the tracks; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of railway carriages with such facilities. [34497]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has received various representations on this matter including from Members of this House, the media and members of the public. While my Department recognises the importance of toilet retention systems, it is the responsibility of individual operators to develop programmes to install them on existing trains. All new trains now have them.

The Department does not hold information on the number of railway carriages with sanitary facilities discharging waste directly on to the tracks. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) at the following address for this information:

ATOC Ltd.
3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London WC1N 1BY

The Rolling Stock Leasing Companies (ROSCOs) could also be contacted for this information.

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of railway carriages with toilet facilities. [34498]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) at the following address for this information:

ATOC Ltd.
3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London WC1N 1BY

The Rolling Stock Leasing Companies (ROSCOs) could also be approached about this information.

Road Traffic

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the difference was between actual congestion levels and those projected by his Department in each of the last five years. [34939]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: The Department for Transport produces congestion forecasts for certain years using the National Transport Model. The latest forecasts are available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/forecasts2009/

However, the first year for which forecasts are provided in this report is 2015. The most recent available set of congestion forecasts for 2010, can be found in: "Road Traffic Forecasts 2008: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model", which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/roadtransportforcasts08/rtf08.pdf

These forecasts show that congestion, measured in terms of delay on all roads in England was expected to increase by 1% between 2003 and 2010, and decrease by 1% on inter-urban Highways Agency roads.

The Department publishes inter-urban congestion statistics, the latest summary of these is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roads/congestion/latestinterurban/interurban2010a.pdf

From the above report, historic delay data for all journeys from July 2005 can be accessed at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roads/congestion/inter-urban/cgn0103.xls

Although there is a break in the data series, this shows that the average length of delay experienced by users of the strategic road network was broadly similar in November 2010 to July 2005.

Road Traffic Control

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will instigate an investigation into the health and safety implications of the use of Trief kerbs. [35220]

Norman Baker: We have no current plans to instigate such research. The appropriate use of Trief kerbs is a matter for individual highway authorities.

Road Traffic: Kent

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the average daily number of vehicles using the *(a)* A2 in Dover constituency, *(b)* A258 between Dover and Deal and *(c)* A256 in Dover constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [35340]

Mike Penning: The most recent estimate of the average daily number of vehicles using the A2 in the Dover constituency was made for the 12 months ending on 30 November 2010. The figures are listed in the following table:

Direction	*Location*	*Average 24 hour traffic volumes*
S/B	Between A260 and Whitfield	7,778
N/B	Between Whitfield and A260	7,675
S/B	Between Whitfield and A256	8,996
N/B	Between A256 and Whitfield	8,272
S/B	Between A256 and A258	12,413
N/B	Between A258 and A256	12,221
S/B	Between A258 and A20	9,262
N/B	Between A20 and A258	8,711

No estimate has been made of the number of vehicles using the A258 or the A256 as the Secretary of State is not responsible for these routes. They are managed and maintained by Kent county council.

Roads: Closures

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely financial effect on *(a)* voluntary organisations and *(b)* small businesses of proposed changes to the procedure for road closure notices. [34629]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: There are no current proposals to change national regulations or guidance on procedures for effecting road closures, as they apply in England. However, I am examining some relevant issues in the context of our Traffic Signs Policy Review, and the Government's policies for localism and decentralisation. Any final decisions on regulatory changes will be made with reference to impact assessments.

It is for the Welsh Assembly Government to consider the procedures that apply in Wales.

Roads: Fees and Charges

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish his Department's response to its consultation on Amendment to the Charges for Unreasonably Prolonged Occupation of the Highways. [35163]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Department for Transport has stated in its business plan that The Street Works (Charges for Unreasonably Prolonged Occupation of the Highway) (England) (Amendment) Regulations will be laid before Parliament by October 2011.

Traffic Regulation

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on the issue of traffic regulation orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. [34084]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* The procedures for making permanent and experimental Traffic Regulation Orders are set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Advice on procedures for making 'special events' traffic regulation orders for temporary events can be found in "Advice on procedures for making "special events" orders under sections 16a-c of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984", available from the Department for Transport's website at

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/specialeventorders

This document contains non-binding advice and does not set out statutory requirements.

It is for the Welsh Assembly Government to determine the regulations and guidance that apply in Wales.

Transport: Finance

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* the Integrated Transport Block and *(b)* major transport schemes in each region in each year since 1997-98. [34101]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport provides local authorities with Integrated Transport Block funding for small scale transport schemes and major project funding for transport schemes, mostly costing over £5 million.

The following table sets out funding allocations for the Integrated Transport Block between 2000-01 and 2010-11. Different funding arrangements were in place for Integrated Transport Block funding before 2000-01.

Integrated Transport Block funding

£ million

	North West	*North East*	*Yorks and Humber*	*East*	*West Mids*	*East Mids*	*South West*	*South East*	*Total*
2010-11[1]	89.8	27.7	58.6	48.0	63.4	48.0	44.7	71.5	451.8
2009-10	117.3	35.8	77.4	63.9	82.3	61.1	59.0	92.6	589.4
2008-09	114.6	34.6	76.5	63.6	79.9	58.3	58.2	89.7	576.8
2007-08	116.5	33.9	76.3	64.0	78.5	55.7	57.9	88.3	571.0
2006-07	107.0	33.2	75.6	65.0	70.5	53.9	56.9	85.0	547.0
2005-06	113.0	33.4	79.0	65.0	72.6	47.1	57.8	84.6	552.5
2004-05	141.6	40.3	89.9	72.6	94.2	57.0	61.6	100.7	658.0
2003-04	129.8	36.5	85.2	72.1	86.0	53.4	58.8	90.7	612.5
2002-03	105.6	35.4	77.5	66.9	79.7	53.0	59.2	87.4	564.6
2001-02	102.8	34.9	76.0	65.5	75.2	51.8	55.2	81.2	542.7
2000-01	47.4	16.1	35.1	29.9	34.7	22.4	25.6	38.8	250.0

[1] Integrated Transport Block funding in 2010-11 was reduced by 25% as part of the coalition Government's in-year savings to reduce the fiscal deficit.

The following table sets out actual spend on major schemes between 2001-02 and 2009-10. The breakdown between regions before 2006-07 is not available and the total is not available before 2001-02.

Major scheme funding

£ million

	North West	*North East*	*Yorks and Humber*	*East*	*West Mids*	*East Mids*	*South West*	*South East*	*Total*
2009-10	184.1	30.9	43.5	22.2	116.4	49.6	59.9	67.5	574.1
2008-09	105.0	14.7	57.6	48.7	43.0	60.6	26.7	32.5	388.8
2007-08	47.1	18.6	48.0	48.0	57.9	27.6	1.1	15.4	263.7
2006-07	28.5	23.1	61.4	44.0	60.1	44.2	11.8	39.1	312.2
2005-06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	318.0
2004-05	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	274.0
2003-04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	196.0
2002-03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	286.0
2001-02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	152.0

Additional major scheme funding was allocated to certain local authorities by formula as follows:

£10 million for North East authorities in 2009-10.

46.9 million for Yorkshire and Humber authorities in 2009-10 and £23.5 million in 2010-11.

Separate arrangements are in place for local transport funding in London.

UK Journeys

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK journeys over *(a)* 50 miles and *(b)* 100 miles to be made in 2033. [31253]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has used the National Transport Model (NTM) to estimate that in 2035 there will be 210 million passenger trips per weekday on average by surface modes (including road and rail, but excluding freight), in Great Britain. Of these, 4.2 million are expected to be over 50 miles long, and 1.5 million trips over 100 miles long.

In addition, the Department for Transport published its most recent air passenger demand forecasts in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts" in January 2009, which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

Under a scenario assuming no additional runways in the South East, and using the then latest available GDP projections, this set of forecasts implied that there would be 37.6 million domestic air journeys per year between UK airports in 2030. The Department keeps its aviation forecasts under review and will publish updated forecasts as appropriate.

Growth of trip numbers over the period to 2033 by particular modes, and for particular parts of the network, may differ from these overall figures.

In addition, HS2 Ltd has published a forecast showing it expects there to be 7 million 'long distance' trips daily in 2033. However, this is not comparable to the preceding NTM figures. This is because HS2 Ltd's model of 'long distance' travel is based on a subset of trips which differs from the national set used in the NTM, and its 'long distance' trips include some that are less than 50 miles long. This different dataset was chosen by HS2 Ltd to enable effective and efficient modelling of the likely impacts of HS2.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes in capacity on the West Coast Main Line he expects to specify in the new franchise. [34431]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport announced the launch of the competitions to refranchise Intercity West Coast on Tuesday 11 January. A stakeholder consultation document will be available soon that will outline the Department's plans.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending the franchise to people serving a custodial sentence of four years or less over the comprehensive spending review period. [34799]

Mr Harper: The cost of extending the franchise to some prisoners will depend on the numbers enfranchised and the number of prisoners who subsequently register to vote, as well as the detailed processes that are put in place to implement prisoner voting rights.

Mr Bain: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the provision of election communications by freepost to prisoners serving custodial sentences to whom the franchise is to be extended at the next general election. [34800]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an estimate.

The cost of extending the franchise to some prisoners will depend on the numbers enfranchised and the number of prisoners who subsequently register to vote, as well as the detailed processes that are put in place to implement prisoner voting rights. The cost of providing election communications by freepost will additionally depend on the number of candidates standing in each election.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34599]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) Space provided per employee

The Department has a policy on the amount of space provided per employee which is a two-tier approach that recognises the Department occupies a variety of both adapted and purpose built space in order to deliver its services either through back office, contact centre or face to face with customers.

The policy and supporting guidance will be used by local managers and staff representatives when determining estate plans.

The standards are:

Tier	m^2	
1	6 to 10	New and existing modern space for functions including back office, central processing, contact centres and the Head Office Estates
2	14 to 18	Existing older space, including new and refurbished 'front office' Jobcentre Plus properties

(b) Home working

The Department has a policy on home working. An application to become a contractual home worker will be accepted only if the employee's role has been identified as being suitable for home working or a vacancy has been advertised as such. Applications will not be accepted if the role has been designated by the departmental business as only suitable for delivery from a business location.

If a role is considered to be suitable a home visit must be undertaken to determine whether the accommodation is suitable in terms of security, health and safety and practicality. Employees must also obtain clearance from their local authority, home insurer, mortgage lender or landlord to ensure that there are no terms, conditions or covenants that prevent the property from being used as a place of work.

The Department provides contractual home workers with the equipment and furniture they need to carry out their duties outside the parent office, but this remains the property of the Department and must be returned when the arrangement ceases for any reason.

All home working arrangements are conditional on the satisfactory completion of a six-month trial and review period.

(c) Hot desking

The Department does not have a policy on 'hot desking'.

However through our Estate Strategy we are currently piloting 'hot desking' in part of one of our support locations in Leeds.

Future wider implementation is being currently considered as part of our efficiency planning to reduce corporate overheads by 40%.

How many employees it has on average per desk

The Department does not hold data on the number of desks.

How much space on average per employee

Under the annual cross-Government Property Benchmarking exercise for 2010 the Department had, on average, 10m^2 per full-time equivalent employee. This information is published in the State of the Estate Report which is laid before Parliament annually and excludes the customer facing areas of jobcentres.

The Department as a whole (and with regard to the two tiered space guidelines mentioned above) has an average amount of space per employee of 14.4m^2 as at January 2011.

Disability Living Allowance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has assessed the merits of providing for exemptions from the proposed compulsory annual review of the benefits of individuals claiming the mobility component of disability living allowance. [31942]

Maria Miller: On 6 December we launched a consultation on the reform of disability living allowance with the key proposal of a new benefit, to be known as personal independence payment, which will be introduced from 2013. A copy of the consultation document, 'Disability Living Allowance reform' (Cm 7984), has been placed in the Library and is also available on our website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dla-reform-consultation.pdf

The consultation makes clear that key to personal independence payment will be an objective assessment of individual need, which we are developing in collaboration with a group of independent specialists in health, social care and disability, including disabled people. It is also our intention to ensure that everyone continues to receive the correct level of personal independence payment. We will, therefore, periodically review awards. Specific questions around these two aspects of personal independence payment have been asked in the consultation document, in particular how these aspects may affect individuals with particular disabilities or conditions.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received from charities on the withdrawal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for care home residents; and what response he has made to such representations. [34205]

Maria Miller: We have received a number of representations on the withdrawal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for care home residents in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence since the measure was announced. There was also an adjournment debate on this subject on 30 November 2010.

We have encouraged disabled people and their representatives to put forward their views on this proposal as part of the wider DLA reform consultation document, which was published on 6 December 2010 and will finish on 14 February 2011, after which the Government will publish their response.

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland will have the mobility component of their disability living allowance withdrawn under his proposals for welfare reform. [34372]

Maria Miller: The consultation document 'Disability Living Allowance reform', published on 6 December 2010, sets out our proposals for DLA reform. We will replace DLA with personal independence payment, a new, more transparent and sustainable benefit with an objective assessment of individual need.

It is our proposal that personal independence payment will continue to have a mobility component, focused on the individual's ability to get around, as well as a daily living component, which will be based on the individual's ability to carry out other key activities necessary to be able to participate in daily life.

We are still consulting on the design of personal independence payment and the new assessment; the consultation period is scheduled to close on 14 February 2011. I am, therefore, unable to predict the outcome of the assessment and precisely how many people might see a change in their benefit entitlement.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland are in receipt of the mobility component of disability living allowance. [34373]

Maria Miller: The information is reproduced in the following table.

Disability living allowance recipients with mobility component May 2010

	Number
Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency	8,050
South Lanarkshire local authority	20,590
Scotland	305,020

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support he plans to make available for individuals who do not qualify for income-related employment and support allowance (ESA) after 12 months in the work-related activity group of contributory ESA. [32333]

Maria Miller: A claimant who does not qualify for income-related employment and support allowance after they have received 12 months of contributory employment and support allowance in the work-related activity group may be able to claim a number of benefits depending on their circumstances. Depending on their rental circumstances, they may be eligible for housing benefit and council tax benefit. If they are aged 60 or over, they may be eligible for pension credit. If they have a partner who is working 16 hours or more a week, they may be able to claim working tax credit. However, any benefit entitlement will depend on individual circumstances.

A claimant will retain any entitlement to disability living allowance, provided they continue to meet the qualifying conditions.

Employment and Support Allowance: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants in the London borough of Bexley have been judged fit for work since the introduction of ESA; and how many and what proportion of appeals against such a determination were successful. [34107]

Maria Miller: For ESA claims in Bexley local authority which started since the introduction of ESA in October 2008 up to February 2010 (the latest published national data), 830 out of 2,230 (22%) have been found fit for work.

180 appeals have been heard against these fit for work decisions to date and 80 of them found in favour of the appellant, i.e. 4% of all ESA claims assessed.

Note that further appeals are due to be heard against the 830 decisions.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10

Equivalent national figures can be found in table 5 at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_26102010.pdf

Background

Due to the time it takes to hear an appeal (on average around six months) and that we do not record an appeal until it is heard, comparing the latest fit for work figures with the latest appeal figures will usually underestimate the proportion of people appealing the fit for work decision. Latest figures for Bexley suggest that around 22% of people found fit for work have gone on to have an appeal hearing, to date. However this figure will rise as more appeals are heard. The latest national figures show proportions of around 40% for the earliest cohorts of ESA claims but we expect that this will also continue to increase (we anticipate to around 50%).

The success rate of 56% (which is unlikely to change much as more appeals are heard) is higher than the national rate of 40%, however at local level we would expect some variation from the national figures due to various factors, particularly different disability and health condition profiles experienced across the country.

Employment Schemes

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what types of work will be undertaken by jobseekers required to participate in the Mandatory Work Activity programme. [35674]

Chris Grayling: The Department will not specify the type of placement jobseekers will be doing. All placements will be delivered by contracted providers and will be of benefit to the local community, providing jobseekers with the disciplines and skills associated with work.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance recipients in (i) South Lanarkshire and (ii) Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency were also in receipt of (A) jobseeker's allowance and (B) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [29424]

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* housing benefit recipients and *(b)* local housing allowance recipients in (i) housing association and (ii) private sector housing in the (A) Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and (B) Dumfries and Galloway constituency were also in receipt of (1) jobseeker's allowance and (2) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [31541]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Information is only collected on the number of claimants on housing benefit in receipt of a passporting benefit. This includes those receiving income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance, but not those on contributory benefits.

The available information is shown in the following table. At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data; this will include parliamentary constituencies.

Number of passported housing benefit recipients due to receipt of income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance, September 2010

	Dumfries and Galloway		*South Lanarkshire*
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*
All housing benefit recipients	11,730	—	26,970
Income-based JSA	1,250	11	2,870
Income-related ESA	410	4	1,060
Registered social landlord tenants	8,700	—	4,150
Income-based JSA	840	10	330
Income-related ESA	300	4	120
Regulated private rented sector tenants	90	—	60
Income-based JSA	[1]—	—	[1]—
Income-related ESA	[1]—	—	[1]—
Deregulated private rented sector tenants (LHA)	1,690	—	3,760
Income-based JSA	280	17	670
Income-related ESA	60	4	210
Deregulated private rented sector tenants (non-LHA)	950	—	1,020
Income-based JSA	30	5	60
Income-related ESA	10	1	20

[1] Fewer than 5.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Source:

Single housing benefit extract.

Jobcentre Plus: Birkenhead

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people the Birkenhead Jobcentre Plus actively helped into work in each of the last 12 months. [35919]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about how many people the Birkenhead Jobcentre Plus actively helped into work in each of the last 12 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus provides information on the services and help available to people to look for work. There are many routes into employment and throughout the customer's journey they may have accessed a number of channels. The type of help required or provided will vary from customer to customer. This help is not limited solely to Jobcentre Plus, as we recognise the importance of the private and voluntary sector.

The table below, which is taken from data available from the NOMIS website for Jobseeker's Allowance customers only, gives the number of people that have moved into work either with our assistance or through other channels. The numbers only show those Jobseeker's Allowance customers who notified us that they have started work. It does not include those people who flowed off benefit into other destinations, e.g. claimed other benefits or went into Government supported training. We estimate off-flow into work as generally representing about 50% of the total number of people leaving the register. Our published off-flow figures (not yet available for the whole of 2010) will include all customers who started work, as confirmed by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.

Birkenhead 2010

	Number
January	120
February	220
March	180
April	165
May	220
June	190
July	200
August	225
September	205
October	250
November	190
December	190

Source:

The source of the data is the NOMIS. This is a departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the performance in reducing unemployment of *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* private companies contracted by his Department. [34974]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus rose ably to the challenges presented by the recession and, while its work load doubled, the agency continued to perform strongly against its published targets, each day helping thousands of people to move quickly back into work. In 2009-10, Jobcentre Plus achieved 1.67 million recorded job outcomes. The latest available performance information, up to June 2010, shows Jobcentre Plus 20% above profile and on track to deliver the 2010-11 Job Outcome Target. Performance information is updated regularly and can be accessed through the Department's website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk

It is important that Jobcentre Plus maintains this strong performance going forward, while we take steps to reduce waste and tackle the budget deficit to make every penny of taxpayers' money count. From April, we will be putting in place a new performance framework for Jobcentre Plus to further strengthen the focus on helping people move quickly off benefit into employment.

Our partners in the private sector are focused on helping some of our most disadvantaged customers into employment and provider performance information is also published regularly on the Department's website. The latest figures show that, in October 2010, flexible new deal providers delivered 4,570 job outcomes and 3,320 sustained jobs. This summer, we will be introducing the Work programme which represents a step change for Welfare to Work in this country, creating a structure that treats people as individuals and allows providers greater freedom to tailor the right support to the individual needs of each customer.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 25 years and over are expected to have been in receipt of benefit for more than 12 months in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [32606]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not produce forecasts of unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the autumn forecast.

A number of policy changes will impact on JSA volumes, over the Parliament, including migration of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance and the lone parent obligation. These policy changes have been included in these projections. However, the projections do not include the impact of the planned work programme, or the introduction of universal credit.

On average, of those joining JSA, over 90% of people leave JSA within 12 months.

The available projections are in the table.

25+ Duration greater than 12 months (GB)

	Percentage
2011-12	19
2012-13	20
2013-14	21
2014-15	20

Notes:
1. Figures represent the proportion of the 25+ JSA case load not the total JSA case load.
2. These proportions are based on the average point-in-time case load for Great Britain for each financial year.
3. Figures are subject to a significant degree of uncertainty.

Source:
DWP internal planning

Jobseeker's Allowance: Young People

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants aged 18 to 24 years are expected to have been in receipt of benefit for more than nine months in each financial year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [32605]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not produce forecasts of unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the autumn forecast.

A number of policy changes will impact on JSA volumes over the Parliament, including migration of incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance and the lone-parent obligation. These policy changes have been included in these projections. However, the projections do not include the impact of the planned Work programme, or the introduction of universal credit.

On average, of those joining JSA, over 90% of people leave JSA within 12 months.

The available projections are in the table.

18-24: Duration greater than nine months, GB

	Percentage
2011-12	10
2012-13	9
2013-14	9
2014-15	9

Notes:
1. Figures represent the proportion of the 18 to 24 JSA caseload not the total JSA caseload.
2. These proportions are based on the average point-in-time caseload for Great Britain for each financial year.
3. Figures are subject to a significant degree of uncertainty.

Source:
DWP internal planning.

Motability

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the operators of the Motability scheme on the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for people in residential care; [31364]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 789W, on disability living allowance: care homes, whether Motability scheme users will be liable to pay financial penalties as a result of the cancellation of their car leasing arrangements. [31363]

Maria Miller: Motability is an independent charitable organisation and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. The Department has had a number of discussions with Motability about this proposal and will continue to work closely with it to ensure that scheme customers affected by the measure are informed about the change as soon as possible. As an independent organisation it will be for Motability to decide how scheme customers affected by the measure will be managed. However, Motability has advised that it is not its current policy to impose penalties on customers who need to terminate their leases for reasons outside of their control.

Poverty: Children

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to *(a)* appoint the members of the Child Poverty Commission and *(b)* lay before Parliament a child poverty strategy. [31987]

Maria Miller: The Government's programme to reform public bodies demonstrates our determination to ensure that all public bodies must serve a useful purpose and provide value for money. In this context, the Government are reviewing plans to establish a Child Poverty Commission, as required by the Child Poverty Act.

We have today launched a consultation on our approach to tackling child poverty and improving life chances and social mobility. We will consider in the light of the consulting findings and ahead of the publication of the

Child Poverty Strategy how best to take forward plans for the Child Poverty Commission. We expect the strategy to be published next spring, as required by the Act.

Poverty: EU Action

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to implement the EU strategy against poverty. [34383]

Chris Grayling: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Oxford East (Mr Smith) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 521W.

Remploy: Redundancy

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on what date Ministers in his Department last met those leading his Department's consultation on specialist disability employment programmes to discuss the announcement of voluntary redundancies at Remploy factories; [35765]

(2) for what reason his Department has announced voluntary redundancies at Remploy factories in advance of the close of its consultation on specialist disability employment programmes. [35766]

Maria Miller: Voluntary redundancies are a matter for Remploy management and employees. Remploy will continue to examine how best to deliver its businesses within the existing five-year modernisation plan funding and will continue to fulfil its mission of transforming lives by providing sustainable employment opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged people.

Ministers have not discussed the announcement of voluntary redundancies at Remploy factories with those leading the review of specialist disability employment programmes.

Retirement: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of additional workers in Scotland aged 65 years who are likely to remain in the workforce for the additional year in 2011 following the abolition of the default retirement age. [35440]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Our impact assessment estimates that around 6,000 additional workers are likely to remain in the work force across the UK in the first year. No separate estimate has been made for Scotland. We do not have data that can estimate robustly the proportion likely to remain in the work force relative to the rest of the UK.

The full impact assessment was published on 13 January and is available at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/p/11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf

Social Security Benefits

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Dartford constituency received more than £500 per week in benefits in the latest period for which figures are available. [31857]

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households in *(a)* London and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency receive more than £500 a week in benefits and have no working adult; and if he will make a statement; [31767]

(2) how many households which receive more than £500 a week in benefits are in receipt of lone parent benefits in *(a)* London and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency; and if he will make a statement; [31663]

(3) how many households received more than £500 a week in benefits in *(a)* London and *(b)* each parliamentary constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [31664]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available as sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for areas smaller than Great Britain.

Latest estimates show that in 2010-11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits. The great majority of these will have no working adult.

Given the relatively low numbers of people receiving more than £500 a week in benefits and the limitations from using survey data, which do not produce robust estimates for small sub groups of benefit claimants, it is not possible to estimate with confidence the number of these households in receipt of lone parent benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Aberdeen

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets his Department has set for the benefits reassessment trial programme in Aberdeen; and whether an interim report on its operation has been produced. [33504]

Chris Grayling: No targets were set for the reassessment trial in Aberdeen.

We anticipate the trial, involving 850 customers in Aberdeen and 850 in Burnley, to conclude in the next few weeks. Current plans are for a report on the trial outcomes to be made available around the end of February 2011.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of fortnightly benefit payments of disability living allowance and incapacity benefit on the propensity of claimants to take out high interest loans. [31904]

Maria Miller: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I previously gave her on 19 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 995-96W.

Social Security Benefits: Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department made in the March 2010 Budget of the level of *(a)* caseload and *(b)* expenditure in respect of each of the main benefits in each year from 2010 to 2015. [33399]

Chris Grayling: The only forecast material that the last Government published in the March 2010 Budget was for 2010-11.

The information for 2010-11 is in the table.

March 2010 Budget forecasts for 2010-11

	Case load (thousand)	*Expenditure (£ million)*
Retirement pension—basic	12,537	55,882
Retirement pension—additional pension	9,157	13,656
Pension credit	2,664	8,071
Disability living allowance	3,214	12,072
Attendance allowance	1,635	5,332
Carer's allowance	566	1,648
Incapacity benefit	1,806	5,476
Employment and support allowance	777	2,969
Statutory maternity pay	190	1,815
Income support	1,745	7,237
Jobseeker's allowance	1,683	5,250
Housing benefit	4,709	20,776
Council tax benefit	5,733	4,959
Other benefits	—	7,032
Total	—	152,175

Note:
Some individuals are in receipt of more than one benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the role of local GPs in medical assessments for the purposes of determining benefit suitability. [34376]

Maria Miller: Any information provided by a claimant's GP is fully considered by the Department's decision-makers, and there are processes in place to request this information where we think it would be helpful. However, GPs usually do not have specialist knowledge of disability analysis or the benefit system. Moreover, as advocates for their patients GPs are not well-placed to give independent advice to the Department on benefit entitlement.

We are revising the forms we send customers to encourage them to submit any additional information, including information from their GP, at the beginning of their claim.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will receive a lower pension as a result of the decision to index pensions and benefits to the Consumer Price Index; and what consultation he undertook with *(a)* the UK Statistics Authority and *(b)* other bodies before taking the decision. [33658]

Steve Webb: The Department's analysis of the equality impact of the policy changes to state pension and benefit uprating in the 2011-12 financial year is due to be published shortly in the equality impact assessment of the 2011-12 uprating order.

The impact of using the consumer prices index (CPI) as the measure for price increases in private sector occupational pension schemes will vary from scheme to scheme. Consequently, the Department does not hold reliable data on the number of individuals affected. In preparing the impact assessment published on the Department's website on 8 December, we made a number of assumptions about the impact on schemes, and we are currently undertaking research to help improve the accuracy of those assumptions.

There are approximately 12 million active, deferred and pensioner members of public service pension schemes. These individuals are likely to be affected by the change to CPI, but as the level of price increases in the future is uncertain, it is not possible to make an accurate estimate of the impact of these changes on all individuals.

The effect of the change to CPI should be seen in the context of the restoration of the earnings link for the basic state pension, and the 'triple guarantee' that it will be increased by the highest of the growth in average earnings, prices or 2.5%.

The Department made use of a range of information provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) regarding price inflation indices. The UK Statistics Authority has oversight of the ONS.

Unemployed People: Disability

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of unemployed disabled people in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [35863]

Maria Miller: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

The number of unemployed disabled people in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England, as per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment, is shown in the following table. We cannot provide estimates for Wales and Northern Ireland due to very small sample sizes in the source data set.

ILO unemployed disabled people in England and Scotland, 2001-10

Thousand

	Scotland	*England*
2001	20	195
2002	21	175
2003	21	185
2004	18	161
2005	17	191
2006	20	225
2007	25	221
2008	20	246
2009	32	262
2010	35	325

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand cases.
2. The definition of disability used corresponds to the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability.
3. The figures shown are for quarter 3 (July to September) in each year.

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Unemployed People: Dyslexia

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the proportion of unemployed people resident in *(a)* Reading East constituency and *(b)* England who are dyslexic. [35449]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the proportion of unemployed people resident in (a) Reading East constituency and (b) England who are dyslexic. (35449)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Unfortunately this source does not have information on the number of unemployed persons who are dyslexic.

Universal Credit

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any recipients of the childcare element of working tax credit will have a reduction in the level of their payments as a result of the introduction of the proposed universal credit; and what estimate he has made of the likely weekly net change in the level of such payments for each decile of population in the period from the introduction of universal credit to May 2015. [34043]

Chris Grayling: The Government are continuing to work with key stakeholders to establish how support for child care could best be delivered as part of, or alongside, universal credit. We will take account of the evidence collected from recent pilots designed to test different ways of accessing the child care element of tax credits. We will announce our conclusions over the coming months.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely weekly change in income of families with children with savings of over £16,000 attributable to the operation of the taper on the introduction of the universal credit between its introduction and May 2015. [34089]

Chris Grayling: The Government have committed to providing protection to ensure that households in receipt of the predecessor benefits will not experience a reduction in their income as a result of the introduction of universal credit.

Work Programme

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that the Work programme will be fully available nationally by its proposed start date. [32129]

Chris Grayling: The commercial process for the Work programme is on track. We have published the list of preferred bidders for the Framework for Employment Related Support Services and will publish the Work Programme Invitation to Tender before the end of the month.

We want to ensure that as many people benefit from the Work programme as soon as possible, and will launch the Work programme as soon as providers are ready to start delivery in each contract package area.

We aim to roll the Work programme out nationally by the summer of 2011.

In the meantime, we are determined to ensure that there is continuity of provision, and that the transition to the Work programme does not leave any customer unsupported. Therefore, New Deal and Employment Zone contracts will be extended until June 2011, ensuring that customers referred to these programmes in March will be supported until the summer, when the Work programme will be rolled out.

Before their referral to the Work programme, customers will have access to support delivered through Jobcentre Plus, including access to work experience, help to volunteer or take advantage of peer-to-peer support, as well as help with basic skills or jobsearch techniques and access to the Jobcentre Plus flexible fund.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies have registered an interest in tendering for the Work programme. [33505]

Chris Grayling: All 35 organisations who were successful in competing to be accepted on to the Framework Agreement for the Provision of Employment Related Support Services were invited to submit a tender for the Work programme contracts on 22 December 2010. Of those 35 organisations, 32 have indicated that they will be submitting bids.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Debts: Advisory Services

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many submissions his Department has received in support of statutory regulation in the field of debt management; and if he will make a statement. [35152]

Mr Davey: The previous Administration conducted a consultation on whether a statutory debt management scheme should be introduced. We issued a summary of responses on 15 October 2010 which concluded that there was no strong consensus on the action that Government should take. The responses were published alongside our call for evidence 'Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt', which invited comments on the personal insolvency framework, including debt management. We have received a large number of responses to this call for evidence which are currently being analysed and will be published in due course. I have also received a number of letters on this subject.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions his Department has provided embargoed media briefings prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010; in respect of how many such briefings his Department was informed that the embargo had been breached; what steps were taken as a result of each such breach; and on how many occasions his Department has provided media briefings without an embargo prior to an oral statement to the House since 26 May 2010. [31912]

Mr Davey: The Department has, on one occasion since 26 May, provided an embargoed media briefing in advance of an oral statement to the House. The briefing related to the publication of the Postal Services Bill and was held with the aim of ensuring accurate reporting of a significant, complex and large piece of draft legislation. The embargo was not breached.

There are no instances of advanced media briefings given without an embargo, prior to an oral statement, since 26 May 2010.

Employment Law

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to receive the report of the cross-departmental review of employment legislation. [35585]

Mr Davey: The Employment Law Review is an ongoing programme of work which will last the duration of the Parliament. Individual Departments are looking at their legislation area by area. We will make any announcements that result from the review in due course.

Employment Services: Females

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the provision of information on resources available to assist women and girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics following the withdrawal of funding to the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science Engineering and Technology. [33763]

Mr Willetts: Information on careers is currently available from a range of sources. The Department funds a number of initiatives which promote STEM careers including the Big Bang Fair, the STEMNET Ambassador programme and the work of the National Academies, and works with a wider range of partners who work to raise awareness of STEM across society.

The new all-age careers service will bring together guidance resources for young people aged 13 to 19 and adults. They aim to provide professional, impartial, independent, comprehensive and diverse careers guidance to help young people and adults make informed choices about their careers, skills and learning, and to tackle any barriers to progression that they may face. They are working with the Careers Profession Alliance so that advisers have the up-to-date knowledge and skills they need to advise on career prospects, including for STEM subjects.

My officials will work with UKRC to secure continuing access to the information the organisation has collated in recent years on STEM career resources for women and girls.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether social work will be treated as a priority subject in his proposed changes to arrangements for higher education funding. [35675]

Mr Willetts: We will set out our views on the priorities for the Higher Education Funding Council for England teaching grant in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Higher Education: Standards

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the quality of university education in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [35871]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has a statutory responsibility to provide for the assessment of the quality of education provided in institutions that it funds. HEFCE contracts with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to conduct quality assessments on its behalf. The QAA checks how well individual higher education institutions meet their responsibilities for maintaining academic standards and quality. The QAA publishes the findings of its institutional audits and reports annually to HEFCE on activity undertaken against contract. Those reports are available on the QAA's website. I am not in a position to respond about the assessment of the quality of university education in Wales.

In future, we have already announced our intention to publish a Higher Education White Paper covering a wide range of long-term issues.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people applied to enter higher education in 2011-12 in England and Wales *(a)* in total and *(b)* in full-time equivalent terms; and if he will make a statement. [35869]

Mr Willetts: Figures on applicants to Higher Education (HE) courses in 2011/12 have been supplied by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Figures relate to applicants to full-time undergraduate courses. UCAS do not manage applications to part-time courses, so full-time equivalent figures are not available.

Latest figures provided by UCAS show that as at 20 December 2010, there had been 322,790 applicants from the UK and overseas for the 2011/12 academic year who had made at least one choice to an institution in England. 44,308 applicants had made at least one choice to an institution in Wales.

Applicants can make up to five choices on their application form (up to four if they are applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine/science courses); therefore some applicants will be counted in both groups in the figures above. The figures will also contain applicants who have made choices to Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as England and Wales.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many funded places he expects there to be in higher education institutions for entry in 2011-12 in England and Wales *(a)* in total and *(b)* in full-time equivalent terms; and if he will make a statement. [35870]

Mr Willetts: We do not plan for the number of students attending institutions in Wales. In English higher education institutions we expect the number of full-time entrant places in 2011-12 to remain at 2010-11 levels. We announced in the 2011-12 Higher Education Funding Council for England Grant Letter that we were continuing to make provision for the 10,000 additional entrant places made available through the University Modernisation Fund in May 2010. There is not a student number control in place for part-time entrants, but given recent trends we would expect part-time entrant numbers to remain broadly constant. Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data for 2009/10 showed no change in part-time entrants to English higher education institutions.

Overseas Students: EU Nationals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from other EU member states he expects to attend English universities in each of the next three years; how many attended each university in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [35872]

Mr Willetts: We do not plan for the numbers of students domiciled in other EU member states separately from those domiciled in UK countries because students from anywhere within the EU are treated the same. The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of students from other EU member states he estimates will not repay their loans in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [35873]

Mr Willetts: We do not have any estimates of the number of students who will not repay their loans in each of the next three years. The Student Loans Company (SLC) Official Statistics Supplement to the June 2010 Statistical First Release

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP032010.pdf

shows the current position for EU students, in tables 1(iii), 1(iv), 2(iv), 2(v) and 3(iv) to 3(vi).

The SLC has well established mechanisms for recovering loans from all students who move abroad and we are confident that these will enable us to effectively collect repayments from EU students in the future.

Postal Services: Finance

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Royal Mail has made an estimate of the savings which would accrue from reducing the number of postal deliveries to five per week. [34782]

Mr Davey: The Government's policy, as set out in the Postal Services Bill, is that the minimum requirements for the universal postal service must include at least one delivery of letters to addresses or other identified points every Monday to Saturday.

As the universal service provider, Royal Mail will be obliged to meet this requirement. The costs involved in providing the universal postal service are a matter for Royal Mail and the regulator.

Science: Equal Opportunities

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to support women returning to work in science, engineering and technology after a career break. [32976]

Mr Willetts: The Government's approach to encouraging diversity in the STEM workforce, as set out in the science and research allocations published on 20 December 2010, will be refocused on specific actions integral to the programmes we fund. We will encourage those partners with whom we work closely to do likewise, and we will develop success measures that explicitly demonstrate progress on equality and diversity. This builds on the wider work of the Government to promote inclusive workplaces.

In partnership with the engineering institutions, industry and others, the Royal Academy of Engineering will develop a new diversity programme in engineering, and the wider STEM work force, to widen participation among under-represented groups.

We will continue to work with partners to consider how those individuals with particular needs, such as those returning to the workplace, might be supported.

Science: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many places for full-time equivalent students to study *(a)* life sciences *(b)* low-carbon technologies *(c)* digital technology and *(d)* advanced manufacturing at each university (i) there were in the last five years for which figures are available and (ii) he expects there to be in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [35525]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 21 January 2011]*: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) uses the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) to classify subject areas. As this classification system does not correspond exactly to the subjects specified, the nearest alternatives have been provided in the table. Figures in the table refer to the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled on courses in each academic year. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012 and can be found in the Libraries of the House. We do not plan for the number of students at a course or subject level.

Students: Loans

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* proportion of student loans which will be irrecoverable for the purposes of his Department's annually managed expenditure estimates for each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [34502]

Mr Willetts: In the spending review period the full-time student tuition fee loan outlay is estimated to be £3.5 billion in 2012-13, £5 billion in 2013-14 and £6 billion in 2014-15.

Additionally, outlay on maintenance loans is expected to be over £3 billion each year.

The proportion of student loans which will be irrecoverable over the lifetime of those loans is estimated to be about 30p in the pound. This has been used in setting the Department's non-cash budget as a ring-fenced part of its departmental expenditure limit budget for each year of the spending review.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to require all new university academics with teaching responsibilities to undertake a teacher training qualification; and if he will make a statement. [35477]

Mr Willetts: This Government are committed to ensuring teaching excellence across the higher education sector. We are exploring with the sector ways in which excellent teaching can be promoted and incentivised, including through training. Plans for our wider programme of reform of higher education will be set out in the forthcoming White Paper.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Ian Murray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the monetary value of amounts paid by prospective air passengers to carriers but not then paid to HM Revenue and Customs as air passenger duty as a result of cancelled or missed flights in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [35293]

Justine Greening: APD is an excise duty that is levied on aircraft operators, not individual passengers. It is the airline which is responsible for paying the tax to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Although they are not required to do so by law, generally airlines pass on the duty charge to their passengers by way of a separately identified charge in the ticket price, which may also include other elements such as passenger service charges, insurance surcharges or tax imposed by other governments. Since any additional charges applied at the discretion of the airline are outside the remit of HMRC, no estimates of their value are available.

Animal Diseases: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision within the contingency reserve there is for emergency relief in respect of the outbreak of diseases affecting animals and livestock in the UK in each of the next four financial years. [35482]

Danny Alexander: The responsibility for animal health and welfare lies with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). In Treasury budgetary guidance, Departments are encouraged not to allocate budgets fully against their programmes at the start of a financial year. This is to allow for contingency planning in the face of unforeseen pressures that emerge subsequently, including their known contingent liabilities.

In exceptional circumstances a Department may make a claim on the reserve. As part of the spending plans announced in spending reviews, the Government allocate a reserve for genuinely unforeseen contingencies that Departments cannot absorb within their departmental expenditure limits.

The overall size of the reserve is set out in Table 1 of the Spending Review document.

Child Benefit: Separated People

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the compliance of child benefit eligibility rules for separated couples with shared custody with the rights of the child as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and if he will make a statement. [34970]

Mr Gauke: The UK fulfils the relevant obligations of the UN convention on the rights of the child by paying child benefit to parents, to provide financial support for the benefit of their child or children.

The law is clear that child benefit cannot be paid for the same child to two people in the same week. Section 144 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 states that where two or more persons would be entitled to child benefit in respect of the same child for the same week, only one of them only shall be entitled. The question of which of them is entitled is determined in accordance with schedule 10 to the Act.

Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the effectiveness of the process by which child tax credit and child benefit are transferred to other family members when they assume guardianship of a child. [35003]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for administering child tax credits and child benefit so I have been asked to reply.

The Department aims to pay 60% of all new tax credits claims in 15 calendar days and 69% of new child benefit claims in nine working days. It can take longer to award new claims where a child is involved in more than one tax credits and/or child benefit claim because HMRC must make separate inquiries to establish the correct entitlements.

HMRC Benefits and Credits keeps all of its procedural guidance under review seeking to make continuous improvements wherever necessary.

Corporation Tax

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the corporation tax losses declared in respect of the accounting period ending in

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(a) 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10 was carried back for offset against profits of previous periods; how much corporation tax was repaid as a result of such carry-backs of losses in each such year; and what the monetary value was of the tax losses carried forward for offset against future profits at the end of each such year. [32815]

Mr Gauke: Loss relief policy remains unchanged since the inception of the Corporation Tax regime in 1965.

From HMRC databases it is estimated that in 2007-08 just over £5.1 billion of allowable losses were carried back by UK companies. In 2008-09 the figure increased to just under £7.8 billion. These figures represent the gross value and not the tax impact of allowing carry-back of these losses. Complete data for 2009-10 are not yet available.

With regard to your question as to the value of tax repayments, in the data provided by corporation tax returns it is very difficult to separately identify the total value of repayments made purely from carry back of losses; or the final value of losses made in-year that are carried forward across corporate groups. As such, these figures cannot be provided.

Departmental Film

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on film production, including the filming of speeches, since May 2010. [34544]

Justine Greening: The Treasury has not spent anything on film production, including the filming of speeches, since May 2010.

Since May 2010, the Treasury has added three films to its website. On each occasion the films were produced at no cost to the Treasury in partnership with other Government Departments' in-house communications teams.

Departmental Procurement

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies for which he is responsible have taken to comply with the Guidance of the Office of Government Commerce on promoting skills through public procurement issued in 2009. [31328]

Justine Greening: Treasury Group Commercial undertake commercial and procurement activities on behalf of the whole of the Treasury Group (HM Treasury, the Debt Management Office, the Asset Protection Agency, UK Financial Investments). All members of the Treasury Group Commercial Team have been made aware of the OGC guidance on skills and apprenticeships in procurement.

Where appropriate contract conditions and performance requirements are included in major Treasury contracts.

The Treasury's major suppliers have been made aware of the policy and guidance. By the end of 2009-10, the Treasury's major suppliers had provided at least 16 apprenticeship places. The major suppliers also offer a range of programmes including various NVQs, Skills for Life in Numeracy and Literacy, Investors in People, work placements and the Train to Gain initiative. At least one supplier has been awarded a National Employer Service contract, with the Learning and Skills Council.

Treasury Group Commercial, as part of the plan to transform its commercial function, is looking to develop its strategic relationships with key suppliers that will include promotion of policy objectives (e.g. Skills, Apprenticeships, SMEs and Low Carbon Efficiency).

The Royal Mint Advisory Committee has no independent procurement function.

Equality Impact Assessments

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Department's paper Overview of the Impact of Spending Review 2010 on Equalities, which Departments were *(a)* included and *(b)* not included in the qualitative assessment referred to in paragraph 1.15 of the paper; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the source data on equality impact submitted by each Department referred to in paragraph 1.12. [29197]

Justine Greening: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The following Departments were included in the qualitative assessment of the equalities impact of the spending review which was published on 20 October:

Department for Education
Department of Health
Department of Culture Media and Sport
Communities and Local Government
Department for Transport
Business, Innovation and Skills
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Home Office
Government Equalities Office.

(b) The following Departments were not included in the assessment:

Cabinet Office
Department for International Development
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HM Revenue and Customs
HM Treasury
Home Office
Law Officer's Department
Ministry of Defence
Security and Intelligence Agencies.

A summary of the data submitted by each Department can be found in the publication 'Overview of the Impact of the Spending Review on Equalities' which was published alongside the spending review announcement. As these data relate to ongoing policy development, it would not be appropriate to place a copy in the Library at this stage.

Full impact assessments will be considered and published by the relevant Departments as the full details of these policies are finalised.

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects compensation payments under the Equitable Life (Payments) Act 2010 to eligible with-profits annuitants to be made; [34747]

(2) when he expects compensation payments to eligible Equitable Life with-profits annuitants to commence. [35072]

Mr Hoban: The Government have announced their ambition to commence payments to all eligible policyholders in the middle of this year.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of paying compensation to those Equitable Life with-profits annuitants who started their annuities before 1 September 1992. [35070]

Mr Hoban: With profits annuitants (WPAs) whose policies commenced before 1 September 1992 did so before any maladministration could have affected their investment decisions. Accordingly, they did not suffer a loss in respect of which any compensation would be appropriate.

The reduction in the levels of annuity payments that they have experienced is largely due to a combination of poor investment market performance, and the fact that early annuity payments were artificially high due to the structure of the product and over-bonusing.

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Equitable Life with-profits annuitants who are ineligible for full compensation will be able to claim some compensation if part of their annuities started after 1 September 1992. [35071]

Mr Hoban: With profit annuitants (WPAs) whose policies commenced before 1 September 1992 did so before any maladministration could have affected their investment decisions. Accordingly, they did not suffer a loss in respect of which any compensation would be appropriate.

In order to be eligible, a policyholder must have had a policy which was invested in Equitable Life's with profits fund and must have paid a premium into that policy during the period between 1 September 1992 and 31 December 2000.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consultation the Government plans to undertake on potential changes to the classification of duty on ready-to-drink beverages; [35769]

(2) whether his Department has undertaken an impact assessment in respect of any proposed change to the classification of duty on ready-to-drink beverages. [35770]

Justine Greening: The June Budget announced a review of the taxation of alcohol, which included ready-to-drink beverages, and the Treasury held an informal consultation over the summer. Evidence and submissions were received from industry, health groups and academics. The Government reported on the review in November, and the results are available online at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/alcohol_taxation.htm

Excise Duties: Fuels

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of progress on the introduction of a pilot scheme to discount fuel duty on petrol and diesel in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles and the Isles of Scilly; and if he will consider extending the scheme to other rural communities in Scotland following the increase in the level of value added tax and fuel duty. [35446]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr MacNeil) on 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1143W. The Government are considering the exact scope of the pilot and at present has announced our intention to include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, and the Isles of Scilly.

Ian Murray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a fuel duty escalator for the road haulage industry; and what representations he has received on this matter. [35494]

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his policy is on relief for fuel costs for haulage companies registered in the UK; [35906]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential barriers to the introduction of any relief for fuel costs to be provided to haulage companies registered in the UK. [35972]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review along Budget timelines and routinely receives representations from stakeholders on a range of tax issues.

Hauliers may reclaim VAT and deduct other business costs including fuel costs under existing business tax arrangements.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the Financial Inclusion Fund. [35348]

Karl Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for funding the Financial Inclusion Fund after April 2011. [35851]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Fund will close at the end of March this year.

The Government will work closely with industry and other stakeholders to ensure that tackling financial exclusion remains a high priority.

Financial Services: Crime

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to announce the outcome of decisions on the structure of an economic crime agency. [34876]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The Government will be consulting on proposals for the Economic Crime Agency in the spring of 2011. Following that consultation we will consider the responses carefully before making any final decisions.

Forestry Commission: Land

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the likely level of net accruals to the Exchequer arising from the sale of Forestry Commission land accounting for *(a)* income tax, *(b)* capital gains tax and *(c)* inheritance tax forgone through such sales during the comprehensive spending review period; [34743]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of tax relief on the purchase and ownership of woodland and forests in each of the *(a)* last and *(b)* next four financial years. [34744]

Mr Gauke: An estimate of accrued income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax foregone from the sale of Forestry Commission land is not available.

The main inheritance tax reliefs for woodland and forests are business property relief and woodlands relief. Business property relief has been estimated to cost £205 million in 2010-11, but this is a wide ranging relief and the cost in relation to woodland and forests is not available. The cost of woodlands relief in 2010-11 has been estimated to be negligible (less than £5 million). Published estimates of the costs of business property relief and woodlands relief can be found in HMRC's published Ready Reckoner tables at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-5.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table-b1.pdf

respectively. Estimates for later years are not available.

Estimates of the cost to the Exchequer of tax reliefs for other taxes are not available.

Fuels: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of changes in automotive fuel prices on *(a)* inflation and *(b)* growth in each of the next four financial years; [34740]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of levels of fuel duty on *(a)* output and *(b)* growth in the road haulage industry in each of the next four financial years. [34801]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 576W. Through the measures set out in Budget 2010 the Government are tackling the fiscal deficit to secure growth and provide the confidence all businesses need to invest. The haulage industry will be affected by a range of Budget measures such as fuel duty and corporation tax changes.

Inflation

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of inflation on the reduction of the budget deficit. [35320]

Justine Greening: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) produced its latest forecast for inflation and the public finances in its November Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2010, available here:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/econ-fiscal-outlook.html

The OBR will publish an updated assessment of inflation and the public finances at the Budget on 23 March 2011.

PAYE

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many national insurance (NI) contributions deducted from pay and recorded on form P14 were not credited to NI accounts in each year since 5 April 2004; and what the monetary value is of the contributions yet to be credited. [34576]

Mr Gauke: The number of unmatched P14s and the associated monetary values of the contributions received for the tax years requested are as follows:

Tax year	*P14s not matched*	*Monetary value of contributions (£)*
2004-05	1,839,143	263,101,931.24
2005-06	2,016,761	289,212,918.76
2006-07	1,974,081	278,618,228.99
2007-08	1,947,065	258,603,899.93
2008-09	1,542,773	194,623,653.05
2009-10	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Figures not yet available.

PAYE: United States Internal Revenue Service

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many meetings his Department has had with the United States Internal Revenue Service on the operation of PAYE in the last 12 months; and what the outcome of such meetings was. [34575]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Public Expenditure: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the removal of end-year flexibility on the block grant for Northern Ireland. [35568]

Danny Alexander: The Government are abolishing the end-year flexibility system, including all accumulated stocks, at the end of 2010-11 and replacing it with a new system from 2011-12 which will retain an incentive to avoid wasteful end-year spending and strengthen spending control. Further detail will be set out later this financial year.

The Government are standing by their existing commitment to the Northern Ireland Executive to draw down end-year flexibility (EYF) in the current year and their commitment to carry forward underspends for the

Department of Justice under the terms of the £800 million funding package which accompanied the devolution of Policing and Justice.

Public Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average maturity of UK sovereign debt; and what information for benchmarking purposes his Department holds on the average maturity of sovereign debt of each EU member state. [35208]

Mr Hoban: As at 30 September 2010, the market value weighted average maturity of the UK's sovereign debt was 13.47 years. The Treasury does not routinely collect data on the average maturity of other sovereign issuers' debt portfolios. On occasion, the Treasury has made comparison with other countries using data from the OECD publication "Central Government Debt: Statistical Yearbook", available at:

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/statistics

The Treasury does not currently hold up-to-date information on the average maturity of other countries' sovereign debt.

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely level of the cyclically-adjusted budget deficit in cash terms in *(a)* 2014-15 and *(b)* 2015-16. [35881]

Justine Greening: The latest forecast for cyclically adjusted public sector net borrowing as a percentage of GDP can be found in table 4.23 of the OBR's Economic and Fiscal Outlook (EFO). The latest forecast for non-seasonally adjusted money GDP can be found in table 4.2 of the EFO.

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

Public Sector: Employment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the change in public sector employment in Brighton and Hove in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [34857]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published, as part of the 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' on 29 November 2010, projections for general government employment to 2015-16, which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many local tax offices closed in each year since 2005. [34421]

Mr Gauke: The number of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices closed in each year since 2005 are given in the following table. Most of HMRC's business is organised on national lines and it does not use the classification of 'local tax office'. Therefore the numbers provided are the total number of HMRC offices closed in each year.

	Total number of HMRC offices closed
April 2005 to March 2006	23
April 2006 to March 2007	23
April 2007 to March 2008	26
April 2008 to March 2009	18
April 2009 to March 2010	81

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of notifications of change of address received by HM Revenue and Customs were acted upon in each of the last five years; [34552]

(2) what proportion of mail sent by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was returned undelivered in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost to HMRC of undelivered mail in each such year. [34560]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HMRC does not hold this data.

Statutory Concessions

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he assessed the potential effects on caravan sites of the withdrawal of statutory concessions. [34210]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is withdrawing three extra statutory concessions (ESC) which relate to caravan sites, all with effect from 1 January 2012, because they exceed the scope of HMRC's administrative discretion. These cover the VAT treatment of connection to the gas or electricity mains supply, the recharge of non-domestic (business) rates and the recharge of water and sewerage rates. All of these concessions must be withdrawn because there are no legal vires in EU law which would permit them to be introduced in UK legislation.

Although some initial estimates have been made, we anticipate representations from those affected by the withdrawal. Impact assessments will be prepared once these representations have been considered.

Tax Avoidance: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make if his policy to refer all tax disputes concerning liabilities greater than £500 million for parliamentary scrutiny prior to action by HM Revenue and Customs. [34973]

Mr Gauke: The Government have no plans to refer tax disputes for parliamentary scrutiny.

There is already a statutory framework for settling all tax disputes. HMRC are authorised to settle disputes with taxpayers. However, where a settlement cannot be reached in that way the case is referred to the tax tribunal.

Tax Yields

Mr Byrne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library the data for the chart on housing and financial sector receipts on page 187 of the 2009 Pre-Budget Report in respect of each year set out in that chart; [33323]

(2) if he will place in the Library a breakdown in cash terms of receipts to the Exchequer for the chart on housing and financial sector receipts on page 187 of the 2009 pre-Budget report in respect of each year set out in that chart. [33324]

Mr Gauke: The data for "Chart a: Housing and financial sector receipts", on page 187 of the 2009 pre-Budget report, are shown as follows.

Housing and financial sector receipts

	Percentage of GDP	*£ billion*
1999-2000	3.2	30.4
2000-01	3.7	37.0
2001-02	3.3	34.4
2002-03	3.1	33.4
2003-04	3.1	35.4
2004-05	3.3	40.6
2005-06	3.8	48.1
2006-07	4.2	56.1
2007-08	4.2	59.8
2008-09	3.4	48.7
2009-10	2.6	36.9
2010-11	2.9	43.1
2011-12	3.2	49.2
2012-13	3.4	55.1
2013-14	3.5	60.4
2014-15	3.6	65.8

The data for the chart are shown both as a percentage of GDP and in cash terms.

Taxation

Jack Dromey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* men and *(b)* women of proposals to (i) increase the rate of value added tax, (ii) increase capital gains tax, (iii) use the consumer price index for calculating benefits and tax credits, (iv) abolish the Child Trust Fund, (v) reduce the Health in Pregnancy grant, (vi) reduce the Sure Start maternity grant and (vii) change public sector pensions. [6918]

Mr Gauke: The Treasury takes its equalities responsibilities very seriously. At the Budget, the Government published more information than ever before about the impact of the Budget in Annex A which showed the impact of tax and welfare changes on households.

At the spending review, the Treasury published the document "Overview of Equalities Impacts of the Spending Review" alongside the announcement. This set out a qualitative analysis of the likely impacts of the spending review on groups protected by equalities legislation, including women.

For each of the policies listed, the Treasury has made the following assessment of the proportionate impact on *(a)* men and *(b)* women:

(i) Increase the rate of value added tax

The effect of the VAT change on men and women was considered and it was concluded that no effect on gender equality was expected as a result of this measure (because spending is best measured at a household level).

Accordingly no specific results were included in the published impact assessment, although that document notes that gender equality was one of the types of testing undertaken.

(ii) Increase capital gains tax

No estimate has been made of the proportionate impact on men or women of proposals to increase capital gains tax.

(iii) Use the consumer price index for calculating benefits and tax credits

It is not possible to calculate robust estimates of the proportionate impact on men and women arising from the switch to CPI indexation for public sector pensions and benefits.

This is because any such estimates would be based on assumptions about future rates of inflation, which would become more uncertain in later years. There is also uncertainty about behavioural or macro-economic effects which would affect the accuracy of any estimates for later years.

(iv) Abolish the child trust fund

No specific gender impact of the ending of eligibility to the Child Trust Fund has been identified. The Child Trust Fund was intended to be for the benefit of the child, and children of both genders were eligible in exactly the same way. As such there will be no specific gender impact.

A gender impact assessment was published alongside the Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Bill (now the Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Act 2010). This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
leg_savings_heathpreg_equality_ia.pdf

(v) Reduce the health in pregnancy grant

A gender impact assessment was published alongside the Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Bill (now the Savings Accounts and Health in Pregnancy Grant Act 2010). This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/
leg_savings_heathpreg_equality_ia.pdf

(vi) Reduce the Sure Start maternity grant

The effect of the restriction of SSMG to first children on gender was considered by DWP as part of its equality impact assessment, which will be published in due course. DWP do not have individual level data to assess this impact. However, DWP expects that the majority of recipients of the SSMG are female and therefore likely to be particularly affected by this measure.

(vii) Change public sector pensions

The value of a pension depends on unique individual factors such as work history, salary and personal financial decisions. Therefore it would not be possible to give an assessment of the proportionate financial impact of the switch to CPI indexation by gender without making large and sweeping assumptions about a complex set of inter-relating factors.

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefit to (i) men and (ii) women by 2014-15 attributable to the (A) increase in capital gains tax, (B) increase in the rate of value added tax, (C) one-year freeze on council tax, (D) changes to disability living allowance, (E) changes to tax credits, (F) freeze on child benefit, (G) changes to housing benefit, (H) changes to lone parent conditionality and (I) uprating of (1) public sector pensions, (2) additional state pension, (3) child tax credits, (4) working tax credits, (5) jobseeker's allowance, (6) disability living allowance, (7) employment and support allowance, (8) income support and (9) carers' allowance in line with the consumer prices index announced in the June 2010 Budget. [12921]

Mr Gauke: The Treasury takes its equalities responsibilities very seriously. At the Budget, the Government published more information than ever before about the impact of the Budget in Annex A which showed the impact of tax and welfare changes on households.

At the spending review, the Treasury published the document 'Overview of Equalities Impacts of the Spending Review' alongside the announcement. This set out a qualitative analysis of the likely impacts of the spending review on groups protected by equalities legislation, including women.

The Treasury has made the following estimates of the average *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefit to men and women by 2014-15 for each of the following policies:

(A) Increase in capital gains tax

No estimate has been made of the average cost to men or women by 2014-15 attributable to the increase in capital gains tax.

(B) Increase in the rate of value added tax

The effect of the VAT change on men and women was considered and it was concluded that no effect on gender equality was expected as a result of this measure (because spending is best measured at a household level).

Accordingly no specific results were included in the published impact assessment, although that document notes that gender equality was one of the types of testing undertaken.

(C) One-year freeze on council tax

There are no robust estimates of the benefits of the council tax freeze in England due to the fact council taxpayers are liable to pay council tax regardless of their gender.

(D) Changes to disability living allowance

The June 2010 Budget announced that the Government will introduce the use of objective medical assessments for all DLA claimants from 2013-4. There is no particular reason to think that a fair medical assessment will have a particular impact on men or women.

A full equality impact assessment will be carried out and published by the DWP once the terms of this policy have been developed.

(E) Changes to tax credits

This information is not available. Tax credits are paid on a household basis. In order to understand the impact of changes to tax credits on men and women it is necessary to know how families share their income between themselves and their children (if any).

(F) Freeze on child benefit

Child benefit is paid for the benefit of the child, not the claimant. It is not possible to produce a robust estimate of the average cost to men and women of such changes that would be sufficiently reliable to be useful for policy making.

(G) Changes to housing benefit

Setting local housing allowance at the 30th percentile of local rents

The Treasury has not made an estimate of the average costs or benefits to men and women. The DWP has now published a final equality impact assessment covering this measure:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf

Uprating of non-dependent deductions

A general equality impact assessment covering the overall uprating exercise will be published in early 2011, and DWP are preparing a separate assessment for the uprating of non-dependant deductions.

Using the consumer price index for local housing allowance and staged reductions for jobseeker's allowance claimants

An equality impact assessment will be published when relevant legislation is brought forward in early 2011.

Social sector size restriction

An equality impact assessment will be published when relevant legislation is brought forward in early 2011.

Additional bedroom for carers

The DWP published a final equality impact assessment covering this measure:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf

Local housing allowance cap

The DWP published a final equality impact assessment covering this measure:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/lha-eia-nov10.pdf

Additional discretionary housing payments (DHPs)

This measure is designed to provide targeted support to housing benefit claimants affected by the reforms. DHPs are made entirely at the local authority's discretion, however DWP has issued good practice guidance to local authorities on DHPs.

(H) Changes to lone parent conditionally

The DWP will publish an impact assessment in due course.

(I) Uprating in line with consumer prices index announced in the June 2010 Budget

It is not possible to calculate robust estimates of the average cost to men and women arising from the switch to CPI indexation for public sector pensions and benefits.

This is because any such estimates would be based on assumptions about future rates of inflation, which would become more uncertain in later years. There is also uncertainty about behavioural or macro-economic effects which would affect the accuracy of any estimates for later years.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the revenue forgone by the Exchequer from *(a)* corporation tax, *(b)* income tax, *(c)* National Insurance contributions, *(d)* value added tax and *(e)* other taxes as a result of companies being struck from the Register of Companies in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [32826]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs does not retain the statistical data that would allow such estimates to be made.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax relief measures are available in respect of woodland ownership; and what plans he has for the future of such measures. [34389]

Mr Gauke: Where inheritance tax would otherwise be due, a specific rule for woodlands allows for the tax to be deferred until the timber is harvested. The deferral only applies to the value of the timber not the land. In addition, a commercial business that is carried on which includes the ownership of woodland may qualify for the general exemption from inheritance tax that is available for business property.

Any profits or gains arising from the occupation of commercial woodland are wholly outside the scope of income tax or corporation tax.

All tax policies are kept under review.

Given the current economic climate, Government policy must reflect the need to reduce the budget deficit. In this context and as stated in the coalition agreement, the Government have agreed that making changes to the personal allowance for income tax should take priority over other tax cuts. Any changes to tax relief measures in respect of woodland ownership will have to be considered with due regard to the Government's priorities of reducing the fiscal deficit and ensuring economic recovery.

VAT

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of applications for value added tax registration resulted in a request to the applicant to provide signed and dated *(a)* supply contracts, *(b)* purchase invoices and *(c)* samples of advertising prior to the provision of a value added tax number; and what proportion of such requests resulted in the application being refused due to (i) suspected fraud and (ii) any other reason in financial year 2009-10. [34384]

Mr Gauke: HMRC received 207,899 applications to register for VAT in 2009-10.

Further information to support the application is requested in up to one third of cases.

These requests may include supply contracts, purchase invoices and samples of advertising but HMRC does not maintain a central record of the type of information requested, in respect of relevant registrations.

The information requested on refused applications is not available.

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change to the average net income of retired households in each income decile attributable to the proposed increase in the rate of value added tax in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15. [28884]

Mr Gauke: Value added tax is an indirect tax. Although prices on certain goods and services will increase as a result of the rate increase, incomes will be unaffected.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the likely effect of the proposed change in the rate of value added tax on *(a)* levels of unemployment in and *(b)* the financial effect on the construction sector in (i) the UK and (ii) Scotland. [32888]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* The answer to this question falls within the responsibilities of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 13th January 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility, I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The OBR's November forecast incorporated the estimated impact of policy measures announced at or before the June Budget, including the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent that took effect from 4 January 2011.

We have not assessed the impact of the change in VAT on levels of unemployment or the construction sector. However, the OBR applied a range of fiscal multipliers to help inform its judgement on the impact of VAT on aggregate demand in the economy. These multipliers are set out in Table C8 of the interim OBR's June Budget document. A figure of 0.6, for example, means that a measure which has a direct effect of raising revenue by 1 per cent of GDP is estimated to reduce aggregate demand in the economy by 0.6 per cent in the short run.

The interim OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast and the OBR's November forecast assumed that the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent would reduce the level of real GDP in 2011/12 by around 0.3 per cent.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of applications for value added tax registration resulted in a request to the applicant to provide a signed tenancy agreement or mortgage statement prior to the provision of a value added tax number; and what proportion of such requests resulted in the application being refused due to *(a)* suspected fraud and *(b)* any other reason in financial year 2009-10. [34385]

Mr Gauke: HMRC received 207,889 applications to register for VAT in 2009-10.

Further information to support the application is requested in up to one third of cases.

These requests may include a signed tenancy agreement or mortgage statement but HMRC does not maintain a central record of the type of information requested, in respect of relevant registrations.

The information requested on refused applications as a result of the request to provide a signed tenancy agreement or mortgage statement is not available.

VAT: Charities

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to bring forward legislative proposals to allow charities to reclaim value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [34868]

Mr Gauke: Charities can, and do, reclaim VAT subject to the normal VAT rules. They also benefit from a number of VAT zero rates and exemptions, in addition to many other tax reliefs. As far as the VAT that charities cannot recover is concerned, the Government have no plans to introduce a general refund scheme.

The Government continue to look at ways of ensuring that VAT does not act as a barrier to the reform of public services where such options are open to us and affordable within agreed funding arrangements. For example, we are continuing to work closely with charities and other sectors to explore options for implementing the EU VAT exemption for cost sharing, and the recent announcement of a new VAT refund scheme for academy schools demonstrates the Government's willingness to create a level playing field for VAT where this can be done in a fair, targeted and affordable way.

However, a general VAT recovery scheme for all charities would not be affordable or well-targeted; nor would it be fair to reimburse those charities which are in competition with other service providers.

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with charities about the effect of the increase in the rate of value added tax on the services they provide. [34869]

Mr Gauke: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from, and regularly meet with, charity representative bodies on a range of issues, including VAT.

VAT: Tourism

Susan Elan Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the tourism industry of the increase in the rate of value added tax. [34459]

Mr Gauke: No specific assessment has been made of the economic impact of the VAT rate increase on the tourism industry. The impact assessment published with the Budget in June 2010 provides information on the compliance costs to business overall of the VAT rate increase, but not at sector level.

Vodafone Group: Taxation

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an assessment of the potential effects of the tax settlement between HM Revenue and Customs and Vodafone Group plc on the operation of anti-avoidance rules for controlled foreign companies. [34972]

Mr Gauke: The controlled foreign companies (CFC) rules have been subject to challenge in both the European and UK courts regarding their compatibility with EC law. In 2009 the Court of Appeal found in HMRC's favour in a case brought by Vodafone. This did not determine any liability, but it allowed HMRC to open discussion with Vodafone and other customers about how the rules actually applied in practice.

The Government are also consulting on reform of the CFC rules to ensure they are more closely targeted on artificially diverted UK profits.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects on income of households in each income decile of the proposed reduction in the *(a)* child care element of working tax credit and *(b)* family element of child tax credit (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a proportion of income in each of the next five financial years. [34802]

Mr Gauke: Given the interaction of tax credit measures with other benefits, it is the overall impact of measures that is important for a household. At the June Budget and the spending review, this Government have taken the unprecedented step of publishing detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of our decisions for the first time (see for instance charts B.4 and B.5 in Annex B of the 'Spending Review 2010' document).

This analysis shows that, when Budget and spending review measures are taken together, it is clear that the top decile contributes the most to the fiscal consolidation, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of net income.

Welfare Tax Credits: Armed Forces

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of households of armed forces personnel in receipt of tax credits. [29028]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 25 January 2011

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Visits Abroad

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many visits were undertaken overseas by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception; what the cost of each such visit was; how many officials attended; which hotels were used; and which class and mode of travel was used. [22059]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was established on 12 October 2007. The total expenditure on all travel and subsistence by officials and Ministers in each year for which figures are available is as follows.

Travel and subsistence

	Total expenditure (£)
2007-08[1]	18,880
2008-09	79,891
2009-10	129,542
2010-11[2]	43,874
Total	272,187

[1] From 12 October 2010

[2] As at 31 October 2010

The vast majority of this relates to visits in the UK. All travel is subject to approval by senior managers but the GEO's accounting systems do not record any distinction between international and domestic travel and isolating precise figures for the number of visits overseas and their cost before 2009-10, when returns to the Cabinet Office on ministerial travel overseas became necessary, could be done only at disproportionate cost. However, the GEO estimate that a quarter of the travel and subsistence expenditure incurred since GEO was established, some £68,000, was spent on visits overseas by officials and Ministers.

Details of expenditure incurred by Ministers on visits overseas in 2009-10, totalling £7,879, are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministers-overseas-travel

Ministers representing GEO would have travelled in First or Business class and would normally be accompanied by a member of their Private Office staff. We do not have information relating to the accommodation used.

Once the GEO has moved on to Home Office accounting systems, precise distinctions between the costs of international and domestic travel will be possible, along with more detail about the costs incurred by individuals.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animals: Smuggling

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many protected and endangered animals were seized at UK airports and ports in each year since 2008-09. [35543]

Damian Green: The number of protected and endangered animals seized at UK airports in each year since 2008 is as follows:

Period	*Number of seizures*	*Number of items seized*
2008-09	37	1,212
2009-10	21	563

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of implementation of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review on the UK Border Agency's ability to enforce anti-smuggling controls at UK ports of entry on the importation of products of animal origin. [35752]

Damian Green: The operating model at the border uses risk models and intelligence to determine how officers are deployed. Deployment decisions are based on an assessment of the risk and officers are supported in products of animal origin (POAO) activity by detector dogs.

Following the spending review, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) along with other Government Departments, is looking critically at ways in which to modernise the workforce to deliver best value for money. This is increasingly important in the current financial climate. This programme of workforce modernisation will include the development of a smaller, more flexible core workforce. By combining this with smarter ways of working UKBA will continue to contribute to the important anti-smuggling agenda.

We work closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (who are responsible for developing and implementing the UK Government's animal health strategy) to ensure our POAO border targeting activities continue to be responsive to new or changing animal disease spread risks to maximise their efficiency and to ensure they focus on the most high risk routings and goods.

Asylum: Finance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the operation of the Azure card system; what estimate she has made of the level of unspent credit on such cards; and what plans she has to review the system. [35987]

Damian Green: The Azure pre-payment card is administered for the UK Border Agency by Sodexo Ltd Sodexo provides regular updates on the card's performance to the UK Border Agency's chief executive.

From November 2009 to December 2010 there have been over 1 million successful transactions which represents 85% of the total. Only 0.25% (3,600) of the unsuccessful transactions were due to technical faults, with 14% due to users not having sufficient funds in their account and the remaining 0.75% due to service users attempting to use their card in non-affiliated stores.

The estimated amount of unspent credit recovered from the Azure card for the first year of its operation is £650,000. The figure is not collated monthly.

Beyond this, the UK Border Agency has no plans to review the Section 4 payment card system.

Deportation: Human Rights

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 676W, on deportation: human rights (1) for what reason the UK Border Agency does not record centrally the information on removals which did not proceed as a result of the application of provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights; and if she will make a statement; [35927]

(2) what estimate she has made of the indicative cost of collecting the information requested; what methods she used to make that estimate; and if she will make a statement. [35929]

Damian Green: In responding to these questions, I have assumed 'deportations' to mean 'removals'.

Data relating to removals are recorded on the Case Information Database (CID), which is the main information technology system used by the UK Border Agency (UKBA). For the purposes of reporting, CID records removals cancellations under standardised categories such as Judicial Review, Injunction, Medical Representations, and Further Representations received. Cases considered under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Article 3 and Article 8 would fall under the further representations category.

The only way to identify these specific ECHR cases would be to undertake a search of the individual case notes or the electronic files for all cases with removals cancelled due to further representations, in the time period requested.

The number of removals cancelled as a result of further representations from 1 April 2008 to 15 January 2010 was 600.

Based on previous case by case searches we have estimated it would take it would take on average 10 minutes to review each individual case. The appropriate grade to carry out this type of work would be an executive officer, whose salary is £144.87 per day .

Therefore to search 600 records would take 100 hours (i.e. 14 working days) and cost £2,012.00.

This expenditure is over the disproportionate cost threshold.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to increase the number of foreign prisoners deported from the UK at the end of their prison sentences. [35311]

Damian Green: This Government are committed to exploring ways of removing these individuals earlier. This will include working with the prisons, courts and the police to build on our capacity to gather intelligence information on nationality at an earlier stage.

Foreign national prisoners are considered for deportation against the following criteria:

A court recommendation;

For non-EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more either in one sentence, or as an aggregate of two or three sentences over a period of five years or a custodial sentence of any length for a drug offence (an offence other than possession only);

For EEA nationals—a custodial sentence of 12 months or more for an offence involving drugs, violent or sexual crimes or a custodial sentence of 24 months or more for other offences.

The UK Border Agency makes every effort to ensure that a person's removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with his/her release from prison on completion of sentence. Where sentence length allows, the UK Border Agency will consider deportation up to 18 months prior to the earliest point of removal. Foreign nationals who are served with a deportation notice have the right of appeal against the decision before the courts.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether international students enrolled at UK institutions will be eligible to remain in the UK under tier 1 post-study work arrangements for two years after completion of their studies. [35875]

Damian Green: On 7 December, we published a public consultation—'The Student Immigration System: A Consultation'. One of the proposals on which we are inviting views is what changes we should make to the tier 1 post study work route, as well as the timing of any changes and any transitional arrangements which may be necessary. We will announce our final decisions on the future shape of tier 4 in due course, following the closure of the consultation on 31 January. Those students in tier 4 of the points-based system will, as now, be able to work in the UK after graduation by switching into tier 2, provided they meet the applicable requirements.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of her policy to reduce levels of immigration on the further education sector. [34863]

Damian Green: The consultation on the student immigration system will close on 31 January. The consultation is seeking the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals on their organisation or sector.

Human Trafficking

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to launch a successor to Operation Pentameter II for the purposes of reducing the incidence of human trafficking. [35551]

Damian Green: This is an operational matter for the police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency, and will be determined by operational priorities.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of operations Pentameter I and II in reducing the incidence of human trafficking. [35552]

Damian Green: During the operational phase of the Pentameter 1 and 2 investigations, 638 people were arrested for human trafficking related and other offences and 257 potential victims, including five for trafficking for forced labour, were recovered.

A key objective of these operations was to build knowledge of human trafficking amongst law enforcement agencies in order that anti-trafficking work could be continued at force level as part of core police business. Forces now have the knowledge and capability to run anti-human trafficking operations, and where necessary can be supported by the operational co-ordination and tactical advice capacity of the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the extent to which the UK complies with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention against human trafficking. [35628]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* We are confident that the UK meets or exceeds the standards required by the Council of Europe Convention against human trafficking.

The Command Paper CM 7465 laid before Parliament in September 2008 details the operational and legislative changes and impact on the UK as a result of ratifying the convention.

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of persons detained under Immigration Act powers have *(a)* convictions for offences in the UK, *(b)* served prison sentences in the UK, *(c)* convictions in other countries and *(d)* served prison sentences in other countries. [36216]

Damian Green: While the UK Border Agency records information on the convictions of those who meet the criteria for deportation, we do not record information electronically on the convictions of those who do not meet the criteria nor do we record information on convictions in other countries. To obtain this information would exceed the cost threshold.

However we can advise that in 2010, for an average month, approximately 635 foreign national prisoners were detained in prison and 1,135 in immigration removal centres beyond the end of their custodial sentence while deportation was considered. These average figures are based on internal management information and are subject to change.

We recognise the risk posed when foreign nationals with a history of offending overseas enter the UK. The proactive transfer of information across borders that would alert border or law enforcement agencies when such individuals travel is a complex and challenging area, particularly within the EU where freedom of movement is an established right for all citizens.

However, we are currently seeking to reduce this risk by working with our European partners and law enforcement organisations such as Europol and Interpol to encourage improved police co-operation. We are also investigating how member states within Europe approach offender management and particularly whether comparable systems to our Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) exist. Through this work we will assess whether we can seek to extend these MAPPA principles across borders to reduce the risk posed by travelling offenders.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 20 longest recorded lengths of time are of a person who is currently in detention under Immigration Act powers. [36217]

Damian Green: As at 30 September 2010, management information shows that of the 2,890 people detained solely under Immigration Act powers, the 20 longest recorded lengths of detention are:

Length of detention in days	*Number of detainees*
1,793	1
1,507	1
1,395	1
1,345	1
1,311	1
1,238	1
1,214	1
1,175	1
1,140	1
1,125	1
1,115	1
1,109	1
1,049	1
1,034	1
1,031	1
1,023	2
1,011	1
1,001	1
988	1

Note:

Figures exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers. They relate to most recent period of sole detention. The period of detention starts when a person first enters the UK Border Agency estate. If the person is then moved from a removal centre to a police cell or Prison Service establishment, this period of stay will be included if the detention is solely under Immigration Act powers. These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to end the link between *(a)* temporary routes and *(b)* permanent settlement. [35498]

Damian Green: The Government will introduce an interim package of changes, in April 2011, which will tighten the current settlement criteria.

There will be a new criminality threshold, requiring all applicants to be clear of unspent convictions when they apply for settlement.

Skilled and highly skilled migrants applying for settlement will need to meet the income criteria that applied when they last extended their permission to stay.

If an economic migrant fails to pass the Life in the UK test, their application for settlement will be refused.

We will remove the ability for new entrants into the Intra Company Transfer route to extend their leave beyond five years.

These measures are a first step in ensuring that we break the automatic link between temporary and permanent migration. We will bring forward further proposals later this year.

Immigration: Aso Mohammed Ibrahim

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further legal steps she plans to consider in respect of the immigration status of Aso Mohammed Ibrahim. [35966]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency was notified on 17 January 2011 that the application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal has been refused by the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Upper Tribunal. The UK Border Agency will now exercise its right to make an application for permission to appeal direct to the Court of Appeal.

Migration

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress she has made on the reduction of net migration. [35141]

Damian Green: We have already announced that we will be introducing a new permanent limit on non-EU economic migrants, with a reduction in visas in the next financial year from 28,000 to 21,700. These changes to the economic routes will be introduced in April. We are currently consulting on changes to tighten the student route and will consult on family and settlement later this year.

Personation

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has commissioned any research on a potential link between closing passport offices and the incidence of identity theft. [35671]

Damian Green: Passport security is of extreme importance. The UK passport is a secure and highly respected document both nationally and internationally because of the integrity derived from the processes of dealing with applications and issuing passports. The proposed closure of a passport application processing centre and local interview offices are in response to excess capacity within the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). The closure programme will not impact on the operational practices within IPS to ensure that the passport remains secure. Research is not planned in this area. Instead, IPS will continue to look at ways in which to improve and enhance the security of the passport and minimise the potential for fraudulent use of identity.

Police: Finance

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the average percentage real terms change in funding allocated to police forces between 2010-11 and 2012-13 using the gross domestic product deflator set out in the forecasts made by the Office of Budget Responsibility in November 2010, and excluding funding allocated *(a)* under the counter-terrorism grant and *(b)* to fund a freeze in the level of council tax. [31505]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* Total Government funding to the police will reduce by 13% in real terms between 2010-11 and 2012-13, using the GDP deflators produced by the Office of Budget Responsibility in November 2010.

Counter-terrorism grants and the council tax grant are key elements of total police funding and therefore should not be excluded from calculations of changes to police funding.

Police Recruitment Freeze

Mr Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police forces which have frozen their recruitment. [35099]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* This is a matter for individual chief constables and their police authorities. It is a priority of this Government to ensure that the police retains and enhances its ability to protect and serve the public.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times each *(a)* VC10, *(b)* C-17 and *(c)* TriStar that has operated in the Afghan theatre landed at the Camp Bastion Aerial Port of Debarkation in each month since January 2010; [34956]

(2) how many flights each *(a)* VC10, *(b)* C-17 and *(c)* TriStar that has operated in the Afghan theatre made in each month since January 2010. [34957]

Nick Harvey: No VC10, C-17 and TriStar aircraft are based in Afghanistan. The number of flights in support of Operation Herrick could only be broken down to individual airframe level at disproportionate cost, but is recorded centrally for each fleet.

A small detachment of VC10 and occasionally TriStar aircraft are based in the wider Op Herrick area on a rotational basis to support Air-to-Air refuelling operations over Afghanistan. They do not land in Afghanistan during these missions. The number of Op Herrick Air-to-Air Refuelling sorties undertaken by VC10 or TriStar aircraft for each month since January 2010 are shown in the following table:

	Number of VC10 Herrick AAR sorties	*Number of TriStar Herrick AAR sorties*
January 2010	18	2
February 2010	35	0
March 2010	25	0
April 2010	14	0
May 2010	23	0
June 2010	27	0
July 2010	29	0
August 2010	29	0
September 2010	32	0
October 2010	32	0
November 2010	30	0
December 2010	29	0

TriStar and C-17 aircraft operate into airfields in Afghanistan as part of the Op Herrick passenger and freight Airbridge. TriStar aircraft land at Kandahar, C-17 aircraft land at both Kandahar and Camp Bastion. The number of TriStar and C-17 flights arriving at Camp Bastion and Kandahar in each month is shown in the following table:

	Number of C-17 arriving Camp Bastion	*Number of TriStar arriving Kandahar*	*Number of C-17 arriving Kandahar*
January 2010	33	25	5
February 2010	40	21	4
March 2010	40	23	4
April 2010	39	20	5
May 2010	29	18	4
June 2010	42	20	4
July 2010	36	24	5
August 2010	40	24	4
September 2010	48	24	4
October 2010	48	25	5
November 2010	36	23	4
December 2010	38	13	4

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what repair or reconstruction work has taken place on the Camp Bastion Aerial Port of Debarkation runway since January 2010; and what the cost to his Department of such work has been. [34962]

Nick Harvey: Maintenance costs for the runway at Camp Bastion since January 2010 have been approximately £700,000. This covers a variety of tasks such as runway repair, airfield ground lighting repair, drainage maintenance and dust suppression maintenance.

Air Force: Military Bases

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 221W on Air Force: military bases, when he expects the data for RAF stations in Scotland to be available. [35077]

Mr Robathan: I refer the right hon. Member to the letter I wrote to him on 19 January, which was published on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 903-4W.

Aircraft Carriers: Crew

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the anticipated normal ship's company will be for the Queen Elizabeth class carriers whilst on operational duty. [33794]

Nick Harvey: On operational duty, a Carrier Variant-configured Queen Elizabeth Class Carrier is currently planned to be manned by a crew of around 760, who would be responsible for the running of the ship and its systems. The number of additional air wing personnel would vary according to the nature of the operational deployment and the aircraft on board at the time.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment made to service personnel who served in world war two was in the latest period for which figures are available; [35291]

(2) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual compensation payment was to service personnel who served in world war two in the latest period for which figures are available. [36034]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 21 January 2011]*: Annual compensation payments to world war two veterans are made under the War Pension Scheme. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 823-24W.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who served in world war two were in receipt of both an armed forces pension and a compensation scheme payment in the latest period for which figures are available. [35023]

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who served in world war two are in receipt of the armed forces pension. [35365]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: Details of the number of service personnel who served during world war two in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Pension scheme are not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Service personnel who have an injury or illness attributable to, or aggravated by, their service can receive compensation by way of a war disablement pension under the War Pension scheme. Although data are not held specifically for world war two veterans, as at 30 September 2010, 33,630 war disablement pensions were in payment to veterans aged 85 or over.

Defence Vetting Agency: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff were employed by the Defence Vetting Agency *(a)* in York and *(b)* elsewhere in (i) May 2010 and (ii) December 2010. [35821]

Mr Robathan: Staff numbers are shown in the following table:

Location	*31 May 2010*	*31 December 2010*
York	301	261
Elsewhere	158	151
Total	459	412

Defence: Sales

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any plans to offer armoured fighting vehicles deemed surplus to the requirements of the army for sale to foreign governments. [35270]

Peter Luff: Any decisions on the disposal of armoured vehicles will be in line with the Ministry of Defence's policy for handling surplus equipment. A government to government sale is usually the first option that is explored. This has the benefit of strengthening international relationships and generating income that can be re-invested in defence. It also allows other governments to contribute to international security and can also provide UK industry with opportunities to undertake some of the regeneration work.

Departmental NDPBs

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many fixed-term appointments each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies has made since May 2010; [31641]

(2) what the average salary was of staff of each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies on fixed-term contracts in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month; [31642]

(3) what the total cost to his Department was of staff on fixed-term appointments in each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month; [31643]

(4) what the total cost to his Department was for staff of each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies on fixed-term contracts in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month; [31644]

(5) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month. [31645]

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* April 2010 and *(b)* each subsequent month; [31566]

(2) what the staff cost was of each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies in May 2010; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost in *(a)* financial years (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and, (iii) 2013-14 and *(b)* each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [31569]

Peter Luff: The Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, my hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan), will write to the hon. Members soon after the Christmas recess, to enable officials to collect the required data.

Substantive answer from Andrew Robathan to Michael Dugher and Gemma Doyle:

My hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology, undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 20 December 2010 (Official Report, column 987W) about fixed-term appointments in the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) non-departmental public bodies. I am now replying.

The following table shows the number of fixed-term appointments that have been made in each of the MOD non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) since May 2010:

Number of fixed-term appointments made since May 2010

	Number
National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN)	4
National Army Museum (NAM)	4
Royal Air Force Museum	4

The museums have their own legal identity and employ their own staff. They are supported by the MOD by grant-in-aid which includes a provision for salaries.

The total cost to the NDPBs and the average salary of staff on fixed-term contracts in each of the MOD non-departmental public bodies in (a) April 2010 and (b) each subsequent month is shown in the following table:

£

	NMRN	*NAM*	*RAF Museum*
Total cost of staff on fixed term appointments in:			
April	8,670	30,770	10,260
May	13,360	28,650	10,260
June	13,360	31,920	10,260
July	13,360	28,650	10,260
August	13,360	32,610	11,390
September	13,360	34,870	13,310
October	12,070	38,320	13,310
November	9,820	36,050	13,990
December	9,820	36,050	15,340
Average annual salary of staff on fixed term contracts:			
April	18,410	28,000	15,000
May	18,410	27,660	15,000
June	18,410	28,000	15,000
July	18,410	27,660	15,000
August	18,410	28,500	15,000
September	18,410	27,940	15,000
October	18,990	28,890	15,000
November	21,540	29,540	15,000
December	21,540	29,540	15,000

The fixed term contracts are for a range of staff which includes seasonal guides for HMS Victory at the NMRN, Senior Executive Officer (Civil Service equivalent grades) and below at the NAM, and apprentices at the RAF Museum.

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed in each of the MOD non-departmental public bodies in (a) April 2010 and (b) each subsequent month is shown in the following table:

Number of full time equivalent staff

	NMRN	*NAM*	*RAF Museum*
April	9	73	177
May	10	72	175
June	10	73	173
July	10	70	172
August	10	71	173
September	10	72	171
October	9	72	172

	Number of full time equivalent staff		
	NMRN	NAM	RAF Museum
November	8	68	173
December	8	68	n/a

The figures for full time equivalent staff cover staff employed at the National Museum of the Royal Navy Central, the main NAM site at Chelsea and a small number of staff at Sandhurst and 2 RAF museums at Hendon and Cosford and a small number or curatorial staff at RAF Stafford where items not on display are lodged.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many planned flying training missions have been cancelled as a result of the recent grounding of the TriStar fleet in its role as an air-to-air refueller. [33450]

Nick Harvey: No training sorties were cancelled while Tristar flying was temporarily suspended. However, the duration of some fast jet training flights undertaken between 17 and 31 December 2010 were curtailed. This had only minimal impact on the quality of the training provided.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of flights of *(a)* military aircraft and *(b)* aircraft chartered by his Department to and from Afghanistan have been delayed by more than six hours in each month since December 2009. [35894]

Nick Harvey: Officials are collating the information requested. Once this work is complete I will write to the hon. Member.

Ministry of Defence Police

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has he made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* efficiency of the Ministry of Defence Police against the key outputs identified by its Statement of Requirement; and if he will make a statement. [35304]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence Police Committee's Annual Report for 2009-10 dated 21 July 2010 provided me and my ministerial colleagues with an assurance that the MOD Police (MDP) was pursuing the strategic direction as intended in the Statement of Requirement. This is achieved through the MDP's provision of high value and high calibre capabilities which continue to reflect defence interests and are not available from other forces. I met personally with the independent chair of the Committee to discuss this report on 21 October 2010.

The Committee also provides an independent scrutiny and assurance to Ministers that the MDP is exercising its powers and authority lawfully, impartially and meeting the standards required of a police force. The MOD Police and Guarding Agency Owner's Advisory Board has regular oversight of the MDP's performance.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which countries Ministry of Defence police officers are currently deployed; what the role of the personnel deployed to each country is; and if he will make a statement. [35305]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) deploy a relatively small number of experienced officers overseas in support of HM Government objectives, and have done so for 10 years. They are currently deployed in Afghanistan, acting as mentors and trainers; Kosovo, acting as mentors and advisors; Georgia, in a monitoring capacity and Occupied Palestinian Territories in an advisory role.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the international policing activities of the Ministry of Defence Police; and if he will make a statement. [35306]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) are an important part of the UK police response overseas on behalf of HM Government (supporting the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and other Whitehall Departments). This reflects their considerable experience and expertise in international policing over the last 10 years. They also train and equip UK police officers deploying overseas. They have made valued contributions to the creation of a police force in Kosovo, free and fair elections in Sierra Leone, and training programmes in Afghanistan, including community policing.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of *(a)* the criminal investigation capability of the Ministry of Defence Police and *(b)* the Ministry of Defence Police fraud squad; and if he will make a statement. [35307]

Mr Robathan: The independently chaired Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police Committee, which reports to MOD Ministers, routinely receives a summary of Criminal Investigations Department (CID) and fraud cases investigated by the Ministry of Defence Police at its quarterly meetings and has given advice to MDP and MOD about performance targets for CID. The Committee will continue to keep under review the capability and performance of MDP CID having regard to the MOD's defined requirements.

The MOD has established a Defence Crime Board, chaired by the Director General Finance, to provide strategic direction to the defence-wide effort to reduce the harm done to the defence budget, safety, security and military operational capability by crime and fraud.

National Defence Medal

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the terms of reference of his review of the creation of a National Defence Medal. [35292]

Mr Robathan: There is no specific review regarding a national defence medal.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support his Department plans to provide to the Hebrides Range Task Force diversification programme for civil Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) future co-utilisation of range assets and capabilities; and what plans he has to co-ordinate that support with the UAS civil and military market development initiatives under consideration by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. [36148]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no objection to civil diversification plans or the Hebrides range including commercial unmanned aerial systems (UAS) as long as this does not interfere with MOD operations at the range. Officials are involved in the work of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with industry to develop and maintain capability in the future UAS market and the potential ways to improve business awareness of the civil market opportunities that exist at ranges such as the Hebrides. However, it would not be appropriate for the MOD to provide direct support to a commercial activity.

War Widows: Pensions

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest annual pension payment to (i) widows and (ii) widowers in receipt of a war widows pension from the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. [33993]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: As at 5 April 2010, the highest, average and lowest annual pensions in payment to widows and widowers under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme were as set out in the following table:

£

	Highest	*Average*	*Lowest*
Widows	80,313.02	4,367.04	13.03
Widowers	20,118.66	4,134.88	316.34

War widow(ers) pensions are paid under the War Pension Scheme (WPS). This scheme provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for injuries and death as a result of service before 6 April 2005. As at 30 September 2010, the average weekly WPS dependants' pension (of which widow(er) pensions are the majority), including allowances, was £218.31. Separate figures for widows and widowers and average, highest and lowest pension could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Annual compensation to widows and widowers from 6 April 2005 is payable under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), and payments are known as Survivors' Guaranteed Income Payments (SGIPs). As at 20 January 2011, the highest, average and lowest SGIPs in payment were as set out in the following table:

£

	Highest	*Average*	*Lowest*
Widows	49,581.57	13,807.58	1,444.15
Widowers	15,419.30	13,697.33	10,731.00

Note:
Data for widows and widowers under the AFPS and the AFCS also include benefits in payment to eligible partners.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pension arrangements are in place for the widow of the late Sergeant Matthew Telford of the Grenadier Guards. [34264]

Mr Robathan: Sergeant Telford died tragically in Afghanistan in 2009, whilst holding acting rank. His widow is in receipt of a pension that reflects his substantive rank.

I announced on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 116-17WS, that I would amend future pensions payments to recognise acting rank. This change came into effect on 3 January 2011. For those who died prior to this date (but after 6 April 2005) a lump sum payment will be made to dependants through the Armed Forces Compensation scheme, which will bring their total settlement into line with the changes to the pension scheme.

The amounts awarded are considered personal data and are therefore protected from disclosure under the Data Protection Act 1998.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: East Midlands

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the arts sector in each local authority area in the east midlands; and if he will make a statement; [34746]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the arts sector in each local authority area in the east midlands; and if he will make a statement. [35193]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information. However, Arts Council England has provided figures relating to the number of arts sector staff, in each employment category, in their regularly funded organisations (RFOs). The 2009-10 figures for the east midlands are set out in the following table:

Number

Local authority	*Permanent full-time*	*Permanent part-time*	*Contractual*
Amber Valley	0	0	6
Blaby	0	2	4
Bolsover	4	1	49
Charnwood	8	6	276
Chesterfield	0	1	6
Derby	85	93	1,046
Derbyshire Dales	3	3	8
East Lindsey	0	6	22
High Peak	25	21	194
Leicester	111	83	323
Lincoln	14	12	90
North Kesteven	13	30	110
North West Leicestershire	2	1	68
Northampton	68	79	251
Nottingham	114	135	442
Rushcliffe	5	0	3
South Derbyshire	1	3	20
South Holland	6	18	58
South Kesteven	13	44	43
Wellingborough	15	32	60
Total	487	570	3,079

Arts: East of England

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the arts sector in each local authority area in the east of England; and if he will make a statement. [34994]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information. However, Arts Council England has provided figures relating to the number of arts sector staff, in each employment category, in their regularly funded organisations (RFOs). The 2009-10 figures for the East of England are set out in the following table:

Number

Local authority	*Permanent full-time*	*Permanent part-time*	*Contractual*
Bedford	4	8	1
Cambridge	48	96	67
Chelmsford	3	2	54
Colchester	51	66	296
East Cambridgeshire	6	2	4
Epping Forest	15	8	38
Ipswich	47	24	497
Luton	14	15	132
Norwich	22	24	344
South Cambridgeshire	3	3	3
Southend-on-Sea	8	5	6
St Albans	21	22	93
St Edmundsbury	22	45	72
Suffolk Coastal	34	14	91
Watford	21	6	124
Waveney	1	5	5
Welwyn Hatfield	3	2	29
Total	323	347	1,856

Departmental Communications

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35793]

John Penrose: The Department has undertaken a number of measures to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. These include:

guides to using plain English on the departmental intranet;

instructions on the use of plain English when drafting ministerial correspondence and submissions; and

training for staff on creating briefings and submissions.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34823]

John Penrose: The following table shows the number of sub-contracted staff servicing the Department who are paid less than the London living wage:

Name of subcontractor	*Number of staff who are paid less than the London living wage*
Ecovert FM	4
Baxter Storey	1
Atos	[1]—

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[1] This information is not held for staff employed under the Atos contract.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36180]

John Penrose: There have been 43 single tenders conducted since May when the Secretary of State was appointed. Out of those, none have been above the EU public procurement threshold.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35392]

John Penrose: Since May 2010, the Department has appointed three female officials and 0 male officials.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35412]

John Penrose: All public appointments made by the Department are published on the departmental website at the following link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7692.aspx

If an appointment is remunerated this will be indicated within the announcement details.

Digital Broadcasting

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to alleviate the difficulties of households in certain areas of Rochester and Strood constituency with digital television signal reception following analogue switch off in 2012. [35603]

Mr Vaizey: In common with other areas of the UK yet to undergo digital switchover, it is the case that reliable coverage of digital terrestrial television (Freeview) signals is currently unlikely to be available in some parts of Rochester and Strood. The primary reason for this is that until digital switchover takes place, the power of the digital transmitters is necessarily restricted to relatively low levels in order to prevent interference being caused to the existing analogue signals. However, when switchover takes place, the power of the digital transmitters will be raised to, on average, 10 times their current levels which will significantly extend their coverage. By the time that the nationwide switchover process is complete, digital TV signals will reach the same number of households as the analogue signals they replace (approximately 98.5% of the UK population).

Viewers in Rochester and Strood can potentially receive signals from a number of TV regions. Viewers that receive Meridian and London ITV services will switch fully to digital in 2012; while any that receive Anglia ITV services will switch later this year.

Mark Reckless: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take steps to assist *(a)* the elderly and *(b)* people on lower incomes in Rochester and Strood constituency with the transition to digital television in 2012. [35604]

Mr Vaizey: The Government and the BBC have set up the Digital Switchover Help scheme (DSHS) to offer those 75 or over, disabled and visually impaired people and care home residents practical help to make the switch to digital television on one of their sets.

The Help scheme is rolled out in each TV region in the run up to switchover. Therefore, the DSHS will contact all eligible people in Rochester and Strood constituency directly by post to ask if they want help, in plenty of time before the Bluebell Hill transmitter group area switches to digital in 2012.

Football

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will undertake an assessment of the safety benefits of the Kombi seating system for football stadia. [35557]

Hugh Robertson: The Football Licensing Authority (FLA) assessed the 'Kombi' seat system in 2001 and concluded that, while it had many advantages, technical and cost issues would make it difficult to install in existing grounds in England and Wales. This assessment can be found on their website at:

http://www.flaweb.org.uk/docs/kombist.php

The FLA also concluded that the development of the 'Kombi' seat system does not affect the key arguments for or against the retention of the policy on all-seated grounds.

Football: Police

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on arrangements for policing the European Football Championship in 2012. [35722]

Hugh Robertson: I have had no direct discussion on this issue.

Since Euro 2000, the Home Office has led a comprehensive multi-agency football safety and security strategy for policing major football tournaments involving UK teams. The measures implemented worked well in Portugal in Euro 2004 and at previous World Cups in Germany 2006 and South Africa last year.

Gambling

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will request that the Gambling Commission publish in its British Gambling Prevalence Survey of February 2011 its assessment of *(a)* the incidence of problem gambling relating to each of the eight types of gaming machine and *(b)* the premises in which the type of gaming machine is located; [34773]

(2) if he will request that the Gambling Commission publish in its British Gambling Prevalence Survey of February 2011 the incidence of problem gambling relating to poker games in *(a)* casinos and *(b)* online. [34774]

John Penrose: The content and publication of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010 is a matter for the independent gambling regulator, the Gambling Commission. It is also an 'official statistic' which, therefore, rightly frees it from political influence.

The analysis of the prevalence of problem gambling between different gambling types will be included because of its importance to the users of the survey and to provide comparability with the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007. For statistical and cost benefit reasons the report will not include a breakdown for poker games in casinos and online poker.

This approach was widely discussed with stakeholders when the questionnaire was originally being developed.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 9 December 2010 in regard to Ms J Vickers. [36033]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State responded to the letter of 9 December from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 23 December 2010.

I will ensure another copy of the Secretary of State's response is sent to the right hon. Member.

Olympic Games 2012

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the likely economic benefits to *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth of (i) events at and (ii) training facilities for the London 2012 Olympics. [36018]

Hugh Robertson: Although Staffordshire and Tamworth are not hosts to a London 2012 venue they stand to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the 2012 games, through businesses winning games-related work, increased tourism and cultural celebrations.

Across the UK 988 cultural and sporting programmes have now been awarded inspire marks, including 79 in the West Midlands. Over 16,000 schools/colleges across the UK have registered for LOCOG's education programme Get Set, including 1,429 schools/colleges in the West Midlands—52.9% of the total number in the region.

Across the UK over 127,000 Companies have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised) and over 1,600 contracts have been directly awarded to Competefor suppliers, with many more winning contracts through the supply chain. Information on businesses in Staffordshire and Tamworth that have directly supplied the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA Suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

www.london2012.com/business

These include Bakers Coaches from Staffordshire who provided the transport for the 'Open Weekend' public tours of the Olympic park and GTech Surveys from Kenilworth who carried out site surveys and investigations in and around the Olympic park.

Pre-games training camps will provide an opportunity to create further economic benefits, including inward investment, through the international attention that will follow. In the West Midlands 32 facilities, that met the criteria to be world-class training venues for Olympic and Paralympic sport, are included in the official London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide. The guide has been produced in an online form and is accessible at:

http://trainingcamps.london2012.com

Agreements have been signed with the Jamaican and American track and field teams to hold training camps in the West Midlands before the start of the games.

The West Midlands has secured £2.2 million from the Legacy Trust towards a programme that will bring people together for community activities of all kinds from across generations, cultures, religious backgrounds, races, social groups and geographical locations with the aim of creating exchange between people.

One of the Inspire marked projects in the West Midlands is 'Away Pitch', which explores the connections and contrasts between the worlds of sport and art through photography and poetry. The project, an exhibition of artwork, poems and photographs has toured across Staffordshire.

Tourism: Marketing

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his most recent assessment is of the progress of the £100 million tourism-marketing fund launched in August 2010 in reaching its financial target. [35471]

John Penrose: Last summer, we challenged British businesses to come together with the Government to create the best ever overseas tourism marketing campaign for Britain, and take advantage of the unique opportunities afforded by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and other major events such as the royal wedding and Her Majesty's diamond jubilee.

Subsequently, on 5 January the Prime Minister held a reception for tourism industry leaders at Downing street to thank some of those already involved. Companies including British Airways, DFDS, lastminute.com, P&O and Radisson Edwardian have already pledged their support to help match the £50 million of public money we have committed through VisitBritain and we are well advanced towards meeting the £100 million target.

TRANSPORT

A2: Dover

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the dualling of the A2 in Dover constituency. [36017]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 26 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 177-79, the Department for Transport plans for funding road improvement schemes for the spending review period, to the end of 2014-15.

The Department for Transport will also take forward work on a number of schemes already under consideration for the next spending review period. At present, the Department is not developing proposals for future schemes on the A2.

The A2 at Dover was not prioritised by regional authorities in the last regional funding allocation—Kent CC's focus generally being on development in the Thames Gateway region.

Aviation: Snow and Ice

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the level of compliance during the adverse weather conditions experienced in November and December 2010 by *(a)* airlines and *(b)* tour operators with their obligations under the Air Passengers Rights Directive (261/2004) and the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Directive (90/314); and if he will make a statement; [33839]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Air Transport Users Council regarding the level of compliance by airlines and tour operators during the adverse weather conditions experience in November and December 2010 with obligations under the Air Passengers Rights Directive (261/2004) and the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Directive (90/314) and if he will make a statement. [33840]

Mrs Villiers: The Government expect air carriers and tour operators to honour their obligations to passengers under EU Regulation 261/2004 on denied boarding, cancellation and delay, and under the package travel directive 90/314, and to look after their passengers during times of adverse weather conditions.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has responsibility for enforcing regulation 261 in the UK. It reminded major airlines and airport operators of their responsibilities to their passengers during this period.

The CAA closely monitored the activities of airlines in this period and undertook remedial action where deficiencies were identified. The Air Transport Users Council (AUC) advises passengers on their entitlements under the regulation and is the UK's complaints handler.

While the obligations of EC Regulation 261/2004 and of the package travel directive do not apply to airports, the Secretary of State has made clear that the Government and the regulator will be working with airlines and airport operators to see what might be done to address issues identified by the recent adverse weather conditions.

Coastguard Stations: Stornoway and Shetland

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what stage of the consultation period *(a)* Stornoway and *(b)* Shetland coastguard stations were included in his Department's coastguard modernisation consultation. [36150]

Mike Penning: The consultation on proposals to modernise the coastguard service was launched on 16 December 2010 and will run until 24 March 2011. Both the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres at Shetland and Stornoway were included within the proposals from the outset.

Copies of the consultation document outlining these proposals, "Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century", have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website:

www.mcga.gov.uk

Dover Harbour Board

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with representatives of (i) the Dover Harbour Board and (ii) stakeholders of the Dover Harbour Board since May 2010. [35343]

Mike Penning: I held a meeting with Roger Mountford, the Chair of Dover Harbour Board, on 21 June 2010. On 8 December 2010, I visited the port of Dover and met members of the Harbour Board, as well as key stakeholders.

No other Ministers at the Department for Transport have held any meetings with Dover Harbour Board, or with its stakeholders on matters relating to the port of Dover, since May 2010.

During this period officials in the Department have held occasional meetings with Dover Harbour Board and the port's stakeholders in the course of normal business.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each communication on the Dover Harbour Board received from stakeholders, as defined in his Department's document on Modernising Trust Ports in the last 12 months. [36011]

Mike Penning: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost given the number of communications received and the time required to redact personal details. The people who made representations had no expectation their details would be made public.

In November 2010 the Department published two online summaries of the representations received on the application from Dover Harbour Board to allow it to sell the port of Dover, one covering the responses received until 22 July and the other those representations received by 8 October. I have placed a copy of both summaries in the Library of the House.

Heathrow Airport

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of the Government's aviation policy on the competitiveness of Heathrow airport as a hub for international air travel over the next decade. [33413]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport plans to issue a scoping document in the spring to take forward the Government's review of strategy for aviation. The key goals of that strategy include supporting economic growth and protecting Heathrow's status as a global hub airport, while at the same time addressing the environmental impacts of aviation. The impact of different policy choices on Heathrow will be taken into account as part of our work in further developing our policy on aviation via the process initiated with the scoping document.

National Air Traffic Services: Privatisation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which ownership models his Department is considering for the sale of the remaining state-owned shares in National Air Traffic Services. [33415]

Mrs Villiers: In line with the announcements made in the June 2011 Budget and the spending review, the Government are considering whether to sell shares in NATS and, if so, what proportion of their holding they should dispose of and by what sale method. They have had various discussions with other shareholders on this issue. We expect to have taken a decision on whether and how to proceed by the time of Budget 2011.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response he made to the representations by the Airline Group on proposals for the sale of the remaining state-owned shares in National Air Traffic Services. [33416]

Mrs Villiers: Following the Budget announcement (June 2010) the Government are continuing to work with other shareholders, including the Airline Group, to explore the options for a potential sale of shares in NATS. As laid out in the spending review document (October 2010), we expect to take decisions on whether and how to proceed by Budget 2011. No decisions have yet been taken as to whether the Government will sell any part of their shareholding.

Ports: Dover

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from stakeholders of the Dover Harbour Board on the Board's management of the Port of Dover; and if he will make a statement. [35520]

Mike Penning: We have received representations from key stakeholders expressing different points of view on the proposed sale of the port by Dover Harbour Board as well as other port business.

In November 2010 the Department for Transport published two online summaries of the representations received on the application from Dover Harbour Board to allow it to sell the port of Dover, one covering the responses received until 22 July and the other those representations received by 8 October. A copy of both summaries is available in the Libraries of the House.

Rescue Services

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to undertake a consultation on the proposal to end the provision of emergency towing vessels by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [35085]

Mike Penning: We have no plans for a formal consultation exercise. However, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) will be inviting all interested parties to discuss how incident management will be undertaken after the current contract for emergency towing vessels expires in September 2011. The first meeting has been arranged for Edinburgh on 4 March.

Sea Rescue: Expenditure

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the operating cost of each coastguard station operated by the Marine and Coastguard Agency *(a)* was for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 and *(b)* is for 2010-11. [35295]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The information requested is as follows:

£ million

	2008-09 costs	*2009-10 costs*	*2010-11 forecast*
Aberdeen MRCC	1.1	1.2	1.3
Belfast MRCC	0.7	0.7	0.7
Brixham MRCC	0.8	0.8	0.8
Clyde MRCC	1.0	1.0	1.0
Dover MRCC	1.0	1.2	1.3
Falmouth MRCC	0.9	0.9	0.9
Forth MRCC	0.7	0.7	0.7
Holyhead MRCC	0.7	0.8	0.7
Humber MRCC	0.9	0.8	0.9
Liverpool MRCC	0.8	0.7	0.7
London MRCC	0.3	0.3	0.4
Milford Haven MRCC	0.7	0.8	0.8
Portland MRCC	1.0	0.9	0.9
Shetland MRCC	0.8	0.8	0.8
Solent MRCC	0.9	1.0	1.0
Stornoway MRCC	0.9	0.8	0.9
Swansea MRCC	0.9	1.0	0.8
Thames MRCC	0.8	0.8	0.8
Yarmouth MRCC	0.7	0.8	0.7
Total	15.6	16.0	16.1

Costs include:

Direct costs of Coastguard Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs), including operating costs comprising: payroll, running costs and accommodation charges;

Some running and accommodation costs include those relating to other Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) co-located offices and non separable district office costs.

Costs exclude:

Running and maintenance of National Information Communication Technology infrastructure, such as radio communications networks, mast and towers, as costs are not held on a site by site basis;

Capital project costs such as IT and equipment refresh are not held on a site by site basis; and

Sector Managers' (those responsible for managing the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officers) pay and the cost of Coastguard Rescue Officers.

Shipping: Accidents

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the removal of coastguard tugs on the effectiveness of responses to oil tanker accidents. [36147]

Mike Penning: Prior to taking the decision to discontinue the provision of publicly funded emergency towing vessels (ETV), the Department for Transport undertook an assessment of the changes that have taken place in the maritime environment, together with a consideration of the frequency with which ETVs have been tasked to assist vessels, including oil tankers, that have got into difficulty.

The Government believe this is properly a matter for commercial operators. Accordingly the Government have judged that the risk in not renewing the ETV contract from September 2011 is acceptable in the light of the need to reduce the fiscal deficit.

Taxis: Working Hours

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the introduction of regulations limiting the number of hours taxi drivers are able to work *(a)* in a single shift and *(b)* in a week. [35988]

Norman Baker: Where taxi drivers are employed, they are subject to certain provisions of the main European Working Time Directive which applies generally across the economy to those in employment; this includes a requirement to take "adequate rest", and regular health checks for night workers.

There are no restrictions on the amount of time a self-employed taxi driver is allowed to drive.

We have no plans to change this position.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Australia: Floods

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government has *(a)* offered and *(b)* provided to the Australian Government to help with the flooding in that country. [34189]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard on 12 January 2011 and offered UK assistance should it be required. My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary met their Australian counterparts in Sydney on 18 January 2011, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited one site of the flooding in Brisbane with his Australian counterpart on 19 January 2011. It was agreed that the Government will provide experts in flood recovery management and in advanced flood forecasting methods.

Bangladesh: Foreign Relations

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on strengthening the UK's relations with Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [36174]

Alistair Burt: Relations between the UK and Bangladesh are strong, and we co-operate closely in a number of key areas, including climate change, poverty reduction, human rights and counter-terrorism. We engage regularly with the Bangladesh Government on these core areas, including through our substantial development programme. The forthcoming visit to UK of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, will provide an opportunity to further strengthen relations.

Burma: Politics and Government

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of efforts made by the UN to secure negotiations between the Government of Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of her party and representatives of ethnic groups in Burma. [35703]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The efforts of the UN Secretary General and his Good Offices Mission to facilitate national reconciliation and dialogue in Burma have been consistently hampered by the unwillingness of the Burmese regime to co-operate with him, and engage seriously on issues of international concern. This lack of co-operation has included a reluctance to grant visas for visits by the UN Secretary General's special adviser on Burma, and rigid control of the special adviser's programme, restricting his ability to meet key political actors in Burma, including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. We nonetheless applaud and strongly support the leadership shown by the UN Secretary General on this issue, and urge him to continue his efforts despite the difficulties. We also call on the Burmese authorities to work more constructively with the UN in the months ahead.

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent visits HM Ambassador to Burma has made to *(a)* Chiang Mai and *(b)* Mae Sot to meet refugees and exiled political activists from Burma. [35704]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Officials at our embassies in Rangoon and Bangkok are in frequent contact with Burmese exile groups and political activists in Thailand, and make regular visits to refugee camps for this purpose.

Our Charge d'Affairs in Bangkok visited Mae Sot on 17 to 18 January 2011 where he met with a wide range of exile and refugee groups and discussed their concerns, including the recent fighting on the Thai-Burma border. On his return to Bangkok on 19 January, he raised a number of these issues with the Thai Foreign Minister.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much his Department spent on decompression of employees in each year from 2005 to 2010; [36060]

(2) how much his Department spent on decompression of employees who served in Afghanistan in each year from 2005 to 2010. [36061]

Alistair Burt: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's employees were subject to decompression schemes in each year from 2005 to 2010. [36062]

Alistair Burt: There are 290 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in Afghanistan and Iraq, where decompression schemes operate. This total includes UK-based and locally engaged staff; only UK-based staff are subject to decompression schemes. For operational and security reasons we cannot break the figures down further. We do not hold figures for previous years in this format.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's employees who had served in Afghanistan were subject to decompression schemes in each year from 2005 to 2010. [36063]

Alistair Burt: There are currently 210 Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in Afghanistan. This total includes UK-based and locally engaged staff; only UK-based staff are subject to decompression schemes. For operational and security reasons we cannot break the figures down further. We do not hold figures for previous years in this format.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on decompression of employees who have served in Afghanistan; and what variation in policy there is according to rank or pay grade. [36064]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) policy on decompression breaks in Afghanistan is that staff work a rotation of six weeks at post/two weeks decompression break. Decompression breaks are linked to the overall security situation, which can change over a posting. This policy applies to all FCO staff, regardless of grade.

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration his Department is giving to merging its security vetting services with those of the Ministry of Defence; and when a decision on this matter will be reached. [35825]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been working with the Cabinet Office on the opportunities to streamline and simplify security vetting across Government. Currently vetting is conducted by two organisations, FCO Services and Developed Vetting Agency (DVA). We continue to look closely at what further improvements could be made. No decision has been taken about merging vetting services.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of subcontracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34817]

Alistair Burt: We are not aware of any Foreign and Commonwealth Office subcontracted staff in London who are paid below the minimum wage.

European External Action Service

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department *(a)* are on secondment and *(b)* he plans to second to the EU External Action Service. [34655]

Mr Lidington: Recruitment for the EU External Action Service (EAS) is in the early stages, with the majority of posts filled by staff transferred from the European Commission or Council Secretariat. Recruitment of secondees from EU member states began in March 2010 and we now have six members of the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office on secondment to the EAS. There are also a number of applicants for EAS positions whose applications are still being processed.

Our long-term aim is for British representation in all EU institutions to be proportionate to the size of our population.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 29 November and *(b)* 16 December 2010 concerning Mr W Pidgeon. [36058]

Mr Lidington: The correspondence from my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon and Billericay was received on 4 January 2011. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the hon. Member for North East Bedfordshire (Alistair Burt) replied on 21 January 2011 following his return from overseas.

Pakistan: Christianity

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct the British high commissioner in Pakistan to make representations to the government of Pakistan on the treatment of Christians in that country. [35560]

Alistair Burt: Alongside our partners in the European Union, the UK engages regularly and at a senior level with the Government of Pakistan on human rights. This includes calling for the rights and freedoms of all Pakistanis being upheld in accordance with the Pakistani constitution, regardless of faith or ethnicity. Our high commissioner raised the issue of the treatment of minorities in Pakistan with senior interlocutors in the Government of Pakistan.

I have raised the treatment of religious minorities (including Christians) with the Pakistan Minister for Minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, on many occasions—most recently on 10 January 2011.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. [35534]

Alistair Burt: The human rights situation in Sri Lanka remains a concern following the end of the military conflict. We continue to raise our concerns both bilaterally with the Government of Sri Lanka and in concert with EU colleagues. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I discussed with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in October 2010 the importance of improving the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

Mr Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Sri Lankan counterparts on the work of the UN Advisory Panel. [35535]

Alistair Burt: We have encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to engage with the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts. I raised this most recently with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister when he visited the UK in October 2010 and our acting high commissioner raised it earlier this month with the Sri Lankan authorities.

Taxis

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on taxis since May 2010. [34673]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently uses two contracts with private hire taxi companies: Addison Lee, covering the London area where the FCO spent £70,798 between May and December 2010; and Raffles Taxis, covering the Milton Keynes area with expenditure of £10,385 in the same period. These figures do not include VAT.

FCO staff travel by the most efficient means of transport, bearing in mind the operational requirement and the need to secure value for money for the public purse. Public transport is used whenever possible and staff avoid using taxis on official business unless it is absolutely necessary.

Staff should not normally use a taxi at public expense between home and office—nor between airports and central London—except for journeys during the hours when public transport is not running. If it is absolutely necessary for staff to work after 9 pm or before 7 am, they may consider taking a taxi from their destination station to their home address or vice versa.

EDUCATION

CAFCASS: Public Expenditure

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the cost to the public purse was of operating the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service head office in Wales in 2009-10. [34145]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* This Department does not hold the information which has been requested; the Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in Wales.

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 319-20W, on children in care, how many and what proportion of children who left care through adoption in the year ending on 31 March 2010 were not children looked-after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. [28417]

Tim Loughton: The number and percentage of children who left care through adoption during the year ending 31 March 2010 who were not looked after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 is shown in the following table.

Children adopted during the year ending 31 March who were not looked after under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, year ending 31 March 2010—coverage: England

	Number/percentage
Number	3,000
Percentage	94

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 and percentages to the nearest whole number.
Source:
SSDA903

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children left care, where care is defined as subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption, and returned to their parents in each year from 1995 to 2010. [28907]

Tim Loughton: The percentage of children subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption who ceased to be looked after and returned to live with their parents in each year ending 31 March 2001 to 2010 is shown in the table.

Information on children who ceased to be looked after and returned home to live with their parents was not collected prior to 2001.

Percentage of children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March children subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order or placed for adoption who were returned to their parents[1,2,3,4], years ending 31 March 2001-10, coverage: England

	Percentage of children who ceased to be looked after
2001[5]	24
2002[5]	27
2003[5]	27
2004[6]	29
2005[6]	28
2006[6]	24
2007[6]	22
2008[6]	21
2009[6]	20
2010[6]	20

[1] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[5] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.
[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.
Source:
SSDA903

Children in Care: Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 319-20W, on children in care, how many children were adopted from care in each case, excluding those children in care under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. [27686]

Tim Loughton: The number of children adopted from care during the years ending 31 March 2006 to 2010 who were not looked after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 is shown in the following table.

Children adopted during the year ending 31 March who were not looked after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989[1], Years ending 31 March 2006-10, Coverage: England

	Number
2006	3,400
2007	3,100
2008	3,000
2009	3,100
2010	3,000

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
SSDA903

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in local government care have gone missing in each of the last three years. [33616]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The following table provides the necessary figures:

	Number of looked after children missing from care
2008	980
2009	930
2010	810

The information is available in table LAB1 at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml

Departmental Overtime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on overtime for staff working within his private office in each of the last five years. [28564]

Tim Loughton: The overtime costs for staff working in the Secretary of State's private office in the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, in each of the last five years is:

	£
2005-06	34,766
2006-07	41,648
2007-08	45,593
2008-09	52,715
2009-10	59,021

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on press cuttings services in each year since 1997. [28155]

Tim Loughton: The Department's spend on press cuttings services for the last three years is contained in the following table. The Department does not hold a central record of its expenditure on the requested items before 2007 and cannot obtain the information without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Spend (£)
2009/10	144,000
2008/09	157,000
2007/08	154,000

Departmental Sponsorship

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what expenditure *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies incurred on sponsorship in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [27512]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not record expenditure separately for sponsorship and therefore the amount spent could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and sponsorship is not recorded separately. Provision of the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Any expenditure that is spent on sponsorship must be in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Education: South Yorkshire

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the funding of education business partnerships in South Yorkshire. [33283]

Mr Gibb: We are considering the future funding of education business partnership services in the context of the allocations of the spending review 2010 settlement. We plan to announce decisions shortly. I will write to the right hon. Member.

Foster Care: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost to the public purse was of a child placed *(a)* with a foster carer and *(b)* in a residential children's home in each of the last five years. [31616]

Tim Loughton: The average unit cost of placing a child with a foster carer or in a residential children's home for years 2005-08 is given in the following table. The Department no longer collects the information from local authorities which would readily permit such figures to be produced.

The University of Kent was however commissioned by the Department of Health and Department for Education to calculate the unit costs of health and social care in 2009/10. They calculated that it cost local authorities £2,494 a week for a placement of a child at a residential children's home and £676 a week for a foster placement. Because a different data source was used the figures are not strictly compatible with those in 2005-08.

Unit expenditure on children's homes[1] and fostering care[2] in England: 2004-05 to 2008-09[3]

Financial year	*Children looked after in children's homes per child per week (£)*	*Children looked after in foster care per child per week (£)*
2005-06	2,318	420
2006-07	2,402	463
2007-08	2,428	489

[1] Children's homes covers expenditure on residential care in voluntary children's and registered children's homes as defined in Children Act 1989. This includes: associated independent visitor costs and relevant contact payments under sections 20/34 of the Children Act 1989; homes where education is provided, but does not attract education; department funds; boarding schools; the social services share of the costs of community homes with education provision and the social services element of accommodating children with special education needs in schools where the education element is met by the education department.

[2] Fostering care includes all in-house provision, fostering services purchased externally, fees and allowances paid to foster parents and the costs of social worker and other support staff who support foster carers. For example, mainstay placements; link placements; permanence placements; temporary/respite fostering; placements with relatives, other than a parent, under foster care; arrangements; placed with approved prospective adopters pending the making of an adoption order under the Adoption and Children Act 2002; associated independent visitor costs and relevant contact payments under sections 20/34 of the Children Act 1989.

[3] Expenditure data for 2005-06 to 2007-08 are drawn from PSSEX data published on the NHS IC website

Freedom of Information

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what judgments have been made by the Information Commissioner on his Department's responses to freedom of information requests in the last 12 months; and how many of these related to child protection. [34609]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* The Information Commissioner has issued nine decision notices on the Department's responses to freedom of information requests within the last 12 months, and details of these are given as follows. Two of these had some connection to child protection, in that one was about an application to join the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, and the other about the ContactPoint Data Security Review. These decisions can be accessed on the website of the Information Commissioner's Office at

http://www.dataprotection.gov.uk/tools_and_resources/decision_notices.aspx

	ICO reference number	*Subject*
1 March 2010	FS50144707	Frontline Technology Ltd. patent for electronic registration system
1 March 2010	FS50167790	Drafts of evaluation reports on academy policy
2 March 2010	FS50127519	Correspondence with the Prince of Wales
4 March 2010	FS50164940	Building Schools for the Future Programme (Camden)
22 June 2010	FS50218437	ContactPoint Data Security Review
22 November 2010	FS50274798	Rail travel expenses
16 December 2010	FS50285730	Elective home education
20 December 2010	FS50260412	Phorm's application to join the UK Council for Child Internet Safety
10 January 2011	FS50264783	Academy review report

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 10 December 2010 in regard to Mrs E Flint. [36051]

Tim Loughton: The Secretary of State for Education replied to the right hon. Member on 21 January.

Runaway Children

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many local authorities provide services to support young people who run away from home or care; [32318]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to ensure that those with parental responsibility for a child make a report when that child goes missing; [32319]

(3) if he will estimate the number of children who ran away from home or care in the latest period for which figures are available. [32320]

Tim Loughton: All local authorities and their partners are required to provide services to safeguard the young and the vulnerable, including those who run away from home or care. Details of these services are not collected centrally.

Procedures are already in place to ensure that children's homes and fostering services make a report when a young person goes missing. The National Minimum Standards for children's homes and fostering services require that all registered children's homes and fostering services should have explicit procedures to follow when children in their care may be missing or absent without permission. Where a young person is not in the care of children's services, it is the responsibility of the parents/carers to report the young person missing.

Local police forces are currently required to share data from the Police National Computer (PNC) on the numbers of missing young people reported to them with the Missing Persons' Bureau in the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA). Local authorities then determine the best ways to work with the police to collate the data on numbers of runaways in their area, whether from home or from care, but these data are not collected centrally.

Schools: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has of the average number of sports clubs a secondary school has worked with in each of the last five years. [33297]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* The Department does not hold this information centrally; we can only provide information about the average number of sports in respect of which schools have had links with clubs. I include a table for ease of reference.

PE and sport surveys	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Average number of listed sports and activities[1] for which secondary schools had links to clubs	10.6	11.2	11.9	12.7	13.8
Number of secondary schools	2,627	3,117	3,114	3,387	3,325

[1] This is based on a list of 50 sports and activities, with a further box for schools to mark if they have links to clubs who do 'other' sports or activities.

Young People: Carers

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will bring forward proposals to require local authorities to collect data on the number of carers under the age of 18 years. [30352]

Tim Loughton: Local and national data on the number of young carers is not held centrally although it is possible to make broad estimates of numbers from data.

The 2001 Census estimates that there are approximately 139,000 children in England aged 17 or under offering some care to a family member, neighbour or friend. The 2011 Census data will provide a more up to date figure later this year.

However it is widely acknowledged that there are a number of hidden young carers.

Helping to care for a family member is something that many young people are happy and proud to do. These young people play an absolutely vital role both for their families and society as a whole and they deserve our recognition and support.

However, I have met many young carers and they have made it clear to me that they want their school, GPs and other services to be more flexible and supportive in helping them and their families' address their needs more effectively.

The Government recently published the updated Carers Strategy entitled "Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy". The strategy recognises that there are a number of 'hidden' young carers and sends out a strong signal that effective support for young carers requires adults and children's services and the voluntary sector and others to work together to identify and support young carers and prevent them from taking on harmful caring roles that put their health and/or education at risk.

Local authorities and primary care trusts are best placed to develop services in response to local demand and to assess local data.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bill of Rights

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the responses received to the consultation, A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: Next Steps; and whether he plans to produce a summary report. [35546]

Mr Swire: We have already made available, on 16 December 2010, the responses to the previous Government's consultation on a Bill of Rights. We have no plans to produce a further summary report. In my written ministerial statement to the House of 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 131W, announcing publication of the responses to the consultation exercise, I made clear that, while there was support for a Bill of Rights among human rights groups along the lines recommended by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, there was also opposition to this. The statement noted in particular that there remained a divergence of views among political parties in Northern Ireland on how best to proceed.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress he has made on the development of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland; and what discussions he has had with *(a)* political parties in Northern Ireland and *(b)* other stakeholders on that matter. [35547]

Mr Swire: The Government remain committed to fulfilling their commitments under the Belfast agreement. However the lack of consensus in Northern Ireland on the issue of a Bill of Rights remains a considerable barrier to further progress.

Northern Ireland Office Ministers and officials have had discussions on this issue since the election with political and other interested parties, including human rights NGOs, and will continue to do so in the coming months.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35781]

Mr Paterson: Staff in the Northern Ireland Office are aware of the need to ensure that all internal and external communications are clearly understandable.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010; [35391]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35413]

Mr Paterson: Since May 2010 I have made 12 appointments (eight male and four female) to public bodies in Northern Ireland. These are shown in the following table.

Public body	*Male/ Female*	*Chairman/Members*	*Full-time/Part-time*	*Remuneration*
Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland	Male	—	Full-time	£58,200 per annum
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland	3 Male; 1 Female	4 Members	Part-time	£5,000 per annum
Parades Commission for Northern Ireland	4 Male; 3 Female	1 Chairman; 6 Members	Part-time	Chairman £500 per diem; Members £250 per diem

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biochar

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she has made an assessment of the likely requirement for Government incentives in order for the development of biochar to be commercially viable; [34357]

(2) how much funding her Department has allocated to research into the use of biochar as a fuel in each of the last five years; and how much such funding she plans to allocate in each of the next four financial years; [34402]

(3) what assessment she has made of the potential contribution of biochar as a fuel source. [34422]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not made an assessment of the likely requirement for Government incentives in order for the development of biochar to be commercially viable. However, DEFRA, in collaboration with the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), has undertaken a review of the potential benefits, costs and issues surrounding the addition of biochar to soil. This found that the evidence base supporting the addition of biochar to soil was not particularly developed or robust, particularly under UK conditions, and that the potential for introducing contaminants to the soil from biochar was a particular concern. No further work has been planned. The study is available on the DEFRA website:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk

Biochar originates from biomass, and its production and combustion is eligible for support under DECC's renewables obligation mechanism. The level of support available will depend on the type of technology used to generate electricity; for example, if advanced pyrolysis or gasification is used, it would be awarded two renewable obligation certificates per megawatt hour.

Biochar produced from virgin biomass will be subject to the sustainability criteria to be introduced in the renewables obligation from April 2011.

Biodiversity

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she next expects to report on progress towards achieving each of the targets for priority species and habitats contained in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. [36246]

Richard Benyon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 692W.

Birds of Prey

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the buzzard population in the UK in each of the last five years. [35453]

Richard Benyon: The most recent published estimate of the size of the Common Buzzard population of the UK was of 44,000-61,000 territorial pairs in 2000. Annual monitoring of trends is undertaken by the British Trust for Ornithology/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/Joint Nature Conservation Committee Breeding Bird Survey. The UK trend for the most recent five year period for which data are available (2003-08) and calculated across 1,069 survey plots, was a 15% increase in that period.

Cod: Quotas

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of reallocating cod quotas in Area VIId in the light of the annual under-utilisation by the over-10 metre sector. [35926]

Richard Benyon: The merits of reallocating under-utilised quotas is being considered as part of the work to explore options for reform of fisheries management arrangements.

There are several reasons why the in-year reallocation of under-utilised quota is not currently undertaken, e.g. quota holders may be retaining their quota to fish later in the year, or to use as swap currency to acquire different quota. The prospect of such reallocation can encourage a race to fish, which could mean that a fish stock is targeted out of season, thus increasing effort and discards of other stocks. Such reallocation may also impact on prices due to a surplus of fish on the market. Furthermore, there is also a risk of 'ghost' fishing in order to secure ongoing access and prevent reallocation—something that is difficult to enforce against.

I recognise the difficulties currently facing the under-10m fleet. I am committed to reforming the fisheries management arrangements, in order to place the fleet on a more sustainable footing. A consultation is due to be launched in the spring, and in the meantime work continues to consider what support can be offered to the under-10m fleet in the short-term.

Common Agricultural Policy: Reform

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received from farmers' unions on her Department's plans to reform the Common Agricultural Policy. [35156]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* Specifically regarding farmers' unions, we have received a number of letters on DEFRA's plans to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) from the National Farmers' Union (NFU). The NFU's input into the CAP reform debate has provided us with a valuable insight into its stance on the progress of the negotiations.

Discussions between DEFRA and the NFU will be of great value over the coming months. I continue to welcome views from all interested parties over the course of the negotiations and would also encourage them to respond directly to the Commission's current consultation on CAP.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by her Department since May 2010; [35394]

(2) what public appointments she has made since her appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35416]

Richard Benyon: There have been no public appointments made since the Secretary of State was appointed.

Any public appointments would be regulated by The Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA).

Efficient and Resilient Food Chain

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the expenditure of her Department's Efficient and Resilient Food Chain research and development programme was in each year since 2006; and what its levels of expenditure will be in each of the next four financial years. [34423]

Mr Paice: Table 1 shows DEFRA's expenditure on the Farming and Food Resource Efficient and Resilient Food Chain research and development programme for the past five financial years.

Table 1: DEFRA research and development funding on resource efficient and resilient food chain

	£
2009-10	3,355,695.00
2008-09	3,867,368.00
2007-08	4,991,645.00
2006-07	4,693,895.00
2005-06	2,800,754.00

Source:
Data taken from the Science and Information System

DEFRA has not yet determined the details of research and development spend over the next five years for this programme. However, provisional evidence budgets which include research and development activity on food have been allocated.

Table 2 shows indicative evidence budget allocations for the current and the next four financial years.

Table 2: Indicative evidence budget allocations

	£
2010-11	3,291,000.00
2011-12	3,107,000.00
2012-13[1]	2,618,000.00
2013-14[1]	2,051,000.00
2014-15[1]	1,271,000.00

[1] From 2012-13 onwards, a proportion of the evidence budget for this programme is held back in an 'unallocated reserve' which is excluded from the figures in this table. This ring-fenced reserve will be annually reallocated to the programme according to DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser's advice on evidence priorities.

Flexibility in the evidence allocation process for 2012-13 onwards is essential so that we can adjust our investment in evidence to respond to developing challenges. For example, significant changes to the direction of DEFRA's investment in evidence could result from the outcomes of White Papers or other major assessments that impact on priorities. At the same time it is recognised that the Department has to meet a number of 'less flexible' statutory monitoring and animal health surveillance requirements, i.e. classed as 'non-discretionary' spend.

To allow DEFRA investment to align to top evidence priorities, an unallocated evidence reserve has been created by 'top-slicing' the discretionary element of the evidence budget. The proportion of the discretionary element contributing to the unallocated reserve will be 10% in 2012-13, 25% in 2013-14 and 50% in 2014-15. This reserve will be reallocated back to individual programmes annually, taking into account overall evidence priorities.

Statutory monitoring and animal health surveillance budgets are not contributing to the unallocated evidence reserve. However, in order to meet the total evidence savings needed across the spending review period, these budgets are generally being reduced by 5% year on year as a minimum. It is anticipated that these savings will be achievable through seeking efficiencies. Where this will not be possible, funds from the unallocated evidence reserve will be accessible.

Farmers: Milk

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the volume of milk disposed of by farmers as a consequence of a lack of tanker collections during the recent severe weather. [34360]

Mr Paice: We have maintained close contact with farming organisations throughout the recent severe weather conditions. Industry has informed us that the volume of milk disposed of was no more than 0.2% of December's production.

Fisheries: Quotas

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings she has had on ending the practice of discarding fish before landing. [35139]

Richard Benyon: As UK Fisheries Minister, I lead on discussions with our European counterparts on the discarding of fish. At the Fisheries Council in December 2010, I negotiated with the European Commission and member states to agree fishing opportunities for 2011. The need to find solutions to the problem of discarding formed an important part of those negotiations. In addition, I chaired meetings on Fisheries Council priorities, where discards was discussed, in Belfast in October 2010 and Brussels in December 2010, with fishery industry representatives, non-governmental organisations and devolved Administrations.

There will be further discussions this year with member states and the Commission on the topic of minimising discards, and the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy in 2012. The UK will continue to lead the way within the EU on finding practical solutions to the discard issue.

Flood Control

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria her Department uses in determining flood risks to each geographical area of England. [35544]

Richard Benyon: Flood risk is assessed as a combination of criteria covering probability, based on historical floods and computer modelling of physical characteristics of the landscape, and consequences, based on the impact of flooding on people, properties, infrastructure and the environment. The presence and condition of flood defences is also taken into account. Further information can be found in the Environment Agency's 2008 publication "Flooding in England: A National Assessment of Flood Risk".

Each risk management authority is responsible for managing risk as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for the future provision of flood prevention services previously provided through the Government Office Network; and what estimate she has made of the effects on flood prevention services of the closure of that network. [35751]

Richard Benyon: The contribution of the Government Office Network to flood prevention is focused on resilience. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) is responsible for developing, implementing and managing a new way of working to deliver sub-national resilience, supporting the delivery of national resilience in England.

The sub-national resilience role is a new one, although it does build on the work and the relationships developed by the current regional resilience teams based in the Government offices. In taking forward the role CLG will be putting in place a new approach, reflecting the shift of priorities brought about by the Government.

Flood Control: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what geographical circumstances and characteristics of areas at risk of flooding she plans to take into account in determining financial allocations to local authorities for flood prevention and protection; and if she will make a statement. [35750]

Richard Benyon: All local authorities in England receive funding support for flood and coastal erosion risk management through formula grant arrangements. From the 2011-12 financial year, lead local flood authorities (established under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010) will receive additional support as area based grant to meet the costs of their new roles and responsibilities under the Act. Individual allocations are based on property counts taken from the Environment Agency's Flood Maps (which indicate susceptibility to river and sea flooding) and Surface Water Vulnerability Maps.

A minimum amount of funding has been set at £110,000 to ensure that every lead local flood authority receives sufficient funding to meet new burdens, with more funding provided where the risk to people and property is greater. Map-based data on the presence of rivers for which local authorities have responsibility is being used to help determine the funding allocations to authorities under formula grant arrangements. Local authority expenditure on levies (including local levy to the Environment Agency and special levy to Internal Drainage Boards) will continue to be supported through formula grant, with allocations informed by records of past expenditure.

The use of map-based data follows calls made on the Government to improve the basis on which funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management is allocated to local authorities, and followed a process of consulting local authorities. The Government will keep the use of map-based data under review to ensure that we continue to have the fairest possible outcome for local authorities in future spending periods.

Floods

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of properties *(a)* constructed on flood plains and *(b)* at risk of flooding. [35452]

Richard Benyon: About 5.2 million properties in England, or one in six properties, are in areas at risk of flooding. Of these, 2.4 million properties are at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, 1 million of which are also at risk of surface water flooding. A further 2.8 million properties are susceptible to surface water flooding alone.

The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes statistics on the percentage of new dwellings built in areas of high flood risk for each year since 1989. These can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/xls/1658129.xls

Floods: Insurance

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the insurance industry on the provision of insurance cover to those areas and properties at risk of flooding. [35224]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA had discussions with key representatives from the insurance industry, the National Flood Forum, the Environment Agency and local government at a Flood Insurance summit in September last year. We agreed to continue working in partnership to ensure insurance against flooding remains widely available beyond 2013, when the current Statement of Principles agreement expires.

Food Security

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding her Department plans to provide for research on food security and sustainable crop yields in each of the next four financial years. [34795]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's Farming and Food Research and Development Programme addresses the challenges of food security and sustainable crop yields. DEFRA has not yet determined the details of its research spend over the next four financial years. However, indicative evidence budgets have been allocated.

Evidence is defined as reliable and accurate information that DEFRA can use to support sound decisions in developing, shaping, and evaluating policy. It includes research and development, monitoring and surveillance, economic and statistical analysis and modelling, secondary analysis and synthesis, and analysis of stakeholder views.

The following table shows minimum indicative evidence budget allocations for the Farming and Food Research and Development Programme for the next four financial years.

Financial year	*Indicative evidence budget allocations for farming and food (£ million)*
2010-11	43.25
2011-12	42.31
2012-13[1]	36.38
2013-14[1]	29.79
2014-15[1]	20.96

[1] From 2012-13 onwards, a proportion of each evidence budget is held back in an 'unallocated reserve' which is excluded from the figures in this table. This ring-fenced reserve will be annually reallocated to individual programmes according to the DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser's advice on evidence priorities.

Notes:

1. Flexibility in the evidence allocation process for 2012-13 onwards is essential so that we can adjust our investment in evidence to respond to developing challenges. For example, significant changes to the direction of DEFRA's investment in evidence could result from the outcomes of White Papers or other major assessments that impact on priorities. At the same time it is recognised that DEFRA has to meet a number of 'less flexible' statutory monitoring and animal health surveillance requirements, i.e. classed as 'non-discretionary' spend.
2. To allow DEFRA investment to align to top evidence priorities, an unallocated evidence reserve has been created by 'top-slicing' the discretionary element of the evidence budget. The proportion of the discretionary element contributing to the unallocated reserve will be 10% in 2012-13, 25% in 2013-14 and 50% in 2014-15. This reserve will be reallocated back to individual programmes annually, taking into account overall evidence priorities.
3. Statutory monitoring and animal health surveillance budgets are not contributing to the unallocated evidence reserve. However, in order to meet the total evidence savings needed across the spending review period, these budgets are generally being reduced by 5% year on year as a minimum. It is anticipated that these savings will be achievable through seeking efficiencies. Where this will not be possible, funds from the unallocated evidence reserve will be accessible.

The research councils of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills will also be contributing to the Global Food Security Programme, which will include sustainable crop yields. The indicative budget allocation for global security in the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council's delivery plan is £104 million a year in the next four financial years. Other research councils will also be contributing towards the Global Food Security Programme. The following table shows the indicative total contributions of these research councils towards the programme over the next four financial years.

Research council	*Indicative contribution towards the Global Food Security Programme in the 2011-12 to 2014-15 period (£ million)*
Economic and Social Research Council	8

Research council	*Indicative contribution towards the Global Food Security Programme in the 2011-12 to 2014-15 period (£ million)*
Medical Research Council	10
Natural Environment Research Council	15

In addition to this, contributions to the programme will be made by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, largely through its manufacturing portfolio.

Forestry Commission

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of changes in the level of access to rights of way over Forestry Commission land that has been sold by her Department in each of the last four years. [35087]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 20 January 2011]:* We have not made an assessment on this issue. Local highway authorities are responsible for the management of public rights of way and have a statutory duty to assert and protect the rights of the public as to their use and enjoyment.

Forestry Commission: Land

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the proportion of Forestry Commission land to be sold in each of the next four financial years. [35481]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission in England will be selling at least 15% of the public forest estate (40,000 hectares) by the end of this spending review period. The Government will shortly consult on a range of models for the future ownership and management for the other 85% of the public forest estate.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission has paid to the Crown Estate for each parcel of land sold in the last five years which has been transferred to the Forestry Commission under the Forestry (Transfer of Woods) Act 1923. [36143]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission has not sold any land in the last five years which has required it to make a payment to the Crown Estates under the Forestry (Transfer of Woods) Act 1923.

Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she is taking to improve the welfare of racing greyhounds. [35346]

Mr Paice: The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010, which apply to England only, provides the welfare conditions for greyhounds at racing tracks and the traceability of greyhounds used in the sport. In addition, anyone who owns or keeps a racing greyhound must provide for the welfare needs of their animals, as required by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

If anyone has any concerns about the way in which a racing greyhound is being kept they should report it to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, who enforce the 2010 regulations in relation to their tracks, or the relevant local authority who enforce the regulations in respect of independent tracks and who also have powers under the 2006 Act to investigate allegations of cruelty or neglect.

Groceries Code Adjudicator

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the *(a)* farming industry and *(b)* food and retail sector on the powers and functions of the Groceries Code Adjudicator; what the (i) dates and (ii) locations of such discussions were; and if she will make a statement. [34446]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State has met the farming industry and the food and retail sector numerous times since taking office to consider a wide range of issues relevant to the food chain. There have been no meetings specifically or solely about the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA), but on occasion there has been an exchange of views on the GCA. The Secretary of State has not discussed the specific powers and functions of the GCA, which were the subject of a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills consultation exercise last year. The Government published its response to the consultation on 3 August 2010, announcing its decision on these powers and functions.

Harlequin Ladybirds

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of harlequin ladybirds in the UK. [35322]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not commissioned any work to estimate the number of harlequin ladybirds in the UK. However, DEFRA funding supported the highly successful public participation Harlequin Ladybird Survey. Information on the documented spread of the species across the country is available on the Harlequin Ladybird Survey website at:

http://www.harlequin-survey.org

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to prevent the spread of harlequin ladybirds. [35323]

Richard Benyon: There is no simple means to prevent the harlequin ladybird from spreading. Scientists at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology are undertaking some detailed analysis on the trends of native ladybird species in response to the arrival of the harlequin ladybird, using Biological Records Centre data collected through volunteer recording schemes. This work could help in the consideration of any future actions. They are also studying the adaptation of native parasites to the harlequin ladybird and there is an increase in the prevalence of these attacking harlequins. As with the very successful Harlequin Ladybird Survey itself, members of the public are being asked to help by recording and reporting what they see through the UK Ladybird Parasite Survey which was launched last year:

www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/ladybird-parasites

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effect on native species of the harlequin ladybird. [35324]

Richard Benyon: UK experts on this species are leading a European group of 120 scientists working in this field. Both laboratory and field studies suggest the impact on other species, particularly those that have a high niche overlap with the harlequin, is high. The Biological Records Centre's UK ladybird survey data are proving vital for this work.

Himalayan Balsam

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to prevent the spread of Himalayan balsam. [35328]

Richard Benyon: Himalayan balsam is widespread in the wild in Britain and it would not be efficient use of Government resources to tackle this plant above other priorities. However, the Administrations in England, Scotland and Wales launched the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain in 2008 as a joint policy framework. Its aim is to minimise the risk posed by invasive non-native species in Great Britain and to reduce the negative impacts which they cause. Through our work on the GB strategy we are helping local action groups who are taking action to manage this plant and others on a local level.

While there is no statutory requirement for landowners to remove the plant from their property, because of its potential harm to habitats and native species it is listed on schedule 9 and subject to section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to plant, or cause this species to grow, in the wild.

We have supported research into finding a natural biological control agent to help control Himalayan balsam, but to date a suitable agent has not been found.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on native species of the spread of Himalayan balsam. [35331]

Richard Benyon: We have not undertaken a specific assessment of the effect Himalayan balsam has on native species. However in the extensive areas of infestation particularly in riparian habitats it competes very effectively for space with native plants and its other impacts include impeding access and exacerbating bank erosion when the plant dies back.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the extent of the spread of Himalayan balsam in the last 10 years. [35332]

Richard Benyon: According to the National Biodiversity Network gateway:

http://data.nbn.org.uk

since its first recording in the wild in 1855, Himalayan balsam has now been recorded in the vast majority of 10 km squares in Britain. DEFRA has made no specific assessment of its spread over the last 10 years.

Japanese Knotweed

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements her Department places on local authorities to take steps against the spread of Japanese knotweed; and what guidance it issues to local authorities on *(a)* controlling and *(b)* eliminating the plant. [35326]

Richard Benyon: There is no statutory requirement for landowners to remove the plant from their property, nor is strategic widespread control the sole responsibility of any particular body. All landowners on whose property Japanese knotweed occurs however should take care to prevent its spread onto neighbouring land or generally into the wild. Local authorities can require landowners to clean up "land adversely affecting the amenity of the neighbourhood" and also have the power to undertake clean-up works and to recover costs from the landowner. If Japanese knotweed is growing on the local authority's own land, it is reasonable to expect that authority to take appropriate action. As public bodies, they are subject to section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 which requires all public bodies to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their functions and this may be relevant where the weed is affecting biodiversity interests.

The Environment Agency offers guidance and advice on the control and elimination of Japanese knotweed, and has published a code of practice which can be found on its website at:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 local authority areas in England have the highest incidence of Japanese knotweed. [35327]

Richard Benyon: As can be seen on the National Biodiversity Network gateway at:

http://data.nbn.org.uk

Japanese knotweed has been recorded in the vast majority of 10 km squares in Britain. DEFRA does not hold information ranking its incidence according to local authority areas. Japanese knotweed is widespread throughout England and some local authorities particularly badly affected have taken specific action against it, for example the Cornwall Japanese Knotweed Forum.

Lake Windermere: Navigation

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to make a decision on the proposed Windermere navigation byelaws and Windermere registration byelaws. [35925]

Richard Benyon: I am currently considering proposals and I expect to be able to announce a decision shortly.

Livestock: Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the threat to livestock from an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [35312]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's assessment is that there is a continual low risk of the introduction of foot and mouth disease (FMD) into the UK (and the EU) from currently affected regions around the world. Additional measures have been put in place as a result of the ongoing situation in Bulgaria, including alerting industry to the situation. More generally, preliminary outbreak assessments are published regularly on the DEFRA website for FMD and other disease incidents around the world.

National Wildlife Crime Unit: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding the National Wildlife Crime Unit will receive from her Department in the next four years. [35753]

Richard Benyon: As a result of the spending review all Government Departments are reviewing their spending and virtually all will have reduced budgets in the coming years, as part of the Government's drive to reduce the country's budget deficit.

DEFRA, along with the other bodies that have provided funding for the Unit, is currently determining its spending priorities. Good progress is being made but it is too soon to say what funding can be made available for the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

Plants

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to prevent new alien plant species taking hold in the UK. [35167]

Richard Benyon: Policy on invasive non-native species is a devolved issue. The administrations in England, Scotland and Wales launched the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy for Great Britain in 2008 as a joint policy framework. It is built on a key principle agreed under the Convention on Biological Diversity which ranks prevention, early detection and rapid action, and longer term management in that order of priority.

Under the Strategy, the "Be Plantwise" campaign, in partnership with industry and user organisations, aims to raise awareness of the issues and advises users of non-native plants on key behaviours to reduce the risks of introducing invasive plants to the wild. In addition we are considering whether to use legislative powers to prohibit the sale of specified invasive species, and as an example of cost-effective action taken, all known occurrences of the South American creeping water primrose, which is a significant problem on the continent are being eradicated since it was caught early enough.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the number of alien plant species in the UK. [35325]

Richard Benyon: Under the GB Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy we are in the process of developing the GB Non-native Species Information Portal in partnership with key organisations. This will collate information on records of non-native species (invasive and otherwise) and will help to improve reporting and monitoring of these species. For example, there are approximately 1,800 non-native flowering plants in the database at present but the accuracy of the information has not yet been verified by key partner bodies.

Plants: Nature Conservation

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what statutory agencies are responsible for plant conservation; [35329]

(2) how much funding her Department plans to provide for plant conservation in 2010-11; and to what bodies it plans to make payments for this purpose. [35330]

Richard Benyon: Funding will be provided to the Food and Environment Research Agency, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and the National Forest Company. The Forestry Commission, as a non-ministerial Government Department, will also receive funding some of which may be used for plant conservation.

Information on how much of this funding will be used for plant conservation is not held centrally and could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost.

Poultry: Swine Flu

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to *(a)* issue and *(b)* revise guidance to farmers and individuals who work with poultry since the first case of swine influenza transfer from human to bird occurred in January 2011; and if she will make a statement. [35159]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* DEFRA has a range of advice on its website for bird keepers to help them protect their birds from all types of disease, including H1N1 influenza. On 12 January, following the finding of a low pathogenic H1N1 influenza virus in turkeys, DEFRA updated its website to remind bird keepers to maintain appropriate biosecurity measures. Guidance on worker protection, provided by the Health and Safety Executive, is also incorporated into DEFRA's website.

Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding her Department plans to provide to the Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the next four years. [35758]

Richard Benyon: The value of the Rural Community Buildings Loan Fund, which is administered on DEFRA's behalf by Action with Communities in Rural Areas (ACRE), stands at £700,000. There are currently no plans to change that.

Sewers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the level of leaks from *(a)* sewers and *(b)* water pipes in each region; and if she will make a statement. [35868]

Richard Benyon: Ofwat reports on water company leakage in its annual service and delivery report. A copy of the latest report is available in the Library of the House. Leakage figures for each water company for 2009-10 are given in the following table:

Leakage performance 2009-10 (total leakage Megalitres/day)

	2009-10
Water and sewerage companies:	
Anglian	210
Dwr Cymru	195
Northumbrian-North East	155
Northumbrian-Essex and Suffolk	67
Severn Trent	495
South West	82
Southern	95
Thames	670
United Utilities	460
Wessex	74
Yorkshire	295
Water only companies:	
Bournemouth and W Hampshire	22
Bristol	53
Cambridge	14.2
Dee Valley	10.4
Veolia Water South East (Folkestone)	7.8
Portsmouth	29
South East (inc Mid Kent)	96
South Staffordshire	74
Sutton and East Surrey	24
Veolia Water East (Tendring Hundred)	5.0
Veolia Water Central (Three Valleys)	145
Industry	3280

Numbers may not total correctly because of rounding.

Ofwat does not collect information on leakage from sewers.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 311W, on climate change: international co-operation, if he will estimate the direct carbon dioxide emissions arising from the participation of the UK delegation in the Cancún climate change conference; what contribution has been made in respect of such travel through the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility; and what method was used to calculate this offset. [36210]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published greenhouse gas conversion factors for air passenger transport in October 2010. Using these factors, the total emissions from the UK delegation to Cancun is 233t.

The calculation methodology is based on the distance travelled per delegate, measured in kilometres on a geodesic basis, and the class of travel. The distance in kilometres is increased by 9%, in line with the DEFRA guidance, and a conversion factor specific to the class of travel applied. The total is then multiplied by a radiative forcing factor of 1.9.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change will purchase offsets in spring 2011 to offset the emissions from all air travel undertaken in the 2010-11 financial year, including travel to and from Cancun by DECC Ministers and officials. The Department will make use of the Government Carbon Offsetting Facility, with full details placed on the Department's website.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35787]

Gregory Barker: DECC is committed to being an open and transparent Government Department. Staff understand the need to minimise the use of jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. DECC's communications strategy underlines DECC's commitment to increase transparency and openness in departmental communications.

It is an aim of the Department to ensure that content on the DECC website and e-communication channels is straightforward, engaging and delivered in plain English. A recent review of the Department's website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk

carried out by an independent research company, found that this was the case with content described as "very good and useful to increase knowledge", as well as "easy to read and comprehend".

The Department is currently working on a project to improve the navigation and structure of the DECC site to make content easier to find. On consultations, DECC is committed to ensuring that consultation documents are self-contained and as clear as possible—in particular, aiming to make all information published clear in terms of the language used, avoiding jargon, abbreviations and acronyms where possible (where they are unavoidable, including them in a glossary of terms).

Finally, written correspondence to Members of Parliament and members of the public is drafted with the help of a Formatting Guide, one clear requirement of which is for all acronyms to be spelled out in full the first time they are used.

Energy: Meters

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average difference was between the average annual cost of electricity to low-income families paying for electricity through *(a)* pre-payment meters and *(b)* direct debit in each of the last four years; and what estimate he has made of the likely average differences in each of the next four financial years. [35736]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold information on average annual electricity bills specifically for low-income households. However, average annual electricity bills for all UK customers (regardless of income) are available by payment type in DECC's publication 'Quarterly Energy Prices'. The following table shows the average standard electricity bill[1] for direct debit customers and for pre-payment meter customers and their difference for each year between 2007 and 2010.

[1] Based on an average annual consumption of 3,300 kWh

Average bills for standard electricity by payment type

£

	Direct Debit	*Pre-payment*	*Difference*
2007	349	401	52
2008	376	424	48
2009	421	466	45
2010	397	449	52

DECC's estimates of future energy prices relate to the average prices paid by the domestic sector. DECC does not make different estimates of future energy prices based on method of payment.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of progress by energy companies on eliminating additional charges and costs on those paying for electricity through pre-payment meters. [35738]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem has put in place rules to protect consumers, which include licence conditions to ensure any difference in the prices charged between different payment methods are cost reflective.

Ofgem has found that the charges for customers paying by pre-payment meter are, on average, below the equivalent standard credit tariffs and less than the indicative cost difference identified during their 2008 Energy Supply Probe between a prepayment meter customer and a customer paying by direct debit. The full Ofgem report is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Update%20on%20Probe%20Monitoring_FINAL.pdf

We support Ofgem's actions in tackling unjustified tariff premiums to ensure consumers do not lose out.

Energy: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with energy supply companies on the inclusion of families with children in the eligibility criteria for social tariffs. [35565]

Gregory Barker: Social tariffs are part of the current voluntary agreement between Government and energy suppliers. This agreement comes to an end in March 2011 and will be replaced by the Warm Home Discount.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the number of children living in households with inadequate heating. [35684]

Gregory Barker: The data requested are not available.

However, data from the 2008 English Housing Survey suggest that around 785,000 households in England contain children under the age of 16 and live in the lowest two (F or G) energy efficiency rated homes.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to raise awareness of social tariffs among low-income households in each of the next four financial years. [35686]

Gregory Barker: Social tariffs are part of the current voluntary agreement between Government and energy suppliers. This agreement comes to an end in March 2011 and will be replaced by the Warm Home Discount.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the systems for data matching between energy supply companies and the Government on those eligible for the warm home discount. [35687]

Gregory Barker: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has had discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on various topics.

Officials in both Departments have worked very closely together on the development and operation of the data matching system for the successful Energy Rebate scheme. This scheme delivered rebates of £80 on electricity bills to over 200,000 older poorer pensioners in 2010.

Subject to the outcome of the Government Consultation on the Warm Home Discount scheme which closed on 14 January 2011, and parliamentary agreement to regulations, officials from both Departments are expected to continue to work closely to deliver the data matching system, and other elements, of the proposed Warm Home Discount scheme.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of elderly people eligible for the Warm Home Discount in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* England, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* Wales in each of the next four financial years. [35688]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount, which included proposed eligibility arrangements, closed on 14 January. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

In this initial proposal, the focus of the scheme would be on providing support to older poorer pensioners through the Core Group, with support also available for other groups through the Broader Group and Legacy Spending. The consultation estimated that under this proposed structure, about two million households per year would be assisted.

In the consultation, Government have proposed eligibility criteria for the Core Group of poorer pensioners:

Scheme year	*Proposed eligibility criteria for consumers in the Core Group*
2011-12	In receipt of pension credit guarantee only (i.e. no savings credit)[1]
2012-13	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only (i.e. no savings credit). 80 and over and in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.
2013-14	In receipt of pension credit guarantee only (i.e. no savings credit). 75 and over and in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.
2014-15	In receipt of pension credit guarantee credit only (i.e. no savings credit). And all in receipt of pension credit guarantee credit and savings credit.

The latest published records from the Department for Work and Pensions, are available via the DWP website at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

indicate the following numbers of current claimants of pension credit guarantee only or pension credit guarantee and savings credit in:

(a) Glasgow North East: 6,940

(b) Glasgow city council: 37,950

(c) Scotland: 216,000

(d) England: 1.8 million

(e) Northern Ireland: the scheme will be GB only

(f) Wales: 132,000.

As set out in the consultation, we estimate that the vast majority of pensioners eligible for the qualifying benefits for the Warm Home Discount Core Group would be in the lowest three income deciles. As set out in the consultation, all those benefiting under the Core Group would receive a rebate of £130 in years one and two, £135 in year three and £140 in year four.

For each of the next four years numbers of eligible households, as broken down in *(a)* to *(f)* above, may change due to factors such as rising state pension age. Due to future uncertainty and currently available information, at present we are unable to estimate a geographical breakdown for the next four financial years.

Additional households will receive support through the Broader and Legacy groups of the Warm Home Discount over the four years of the scheme. These households will be found by energy suppliers, subject to their eligibility being approved by Ofgem.

As eligibility criteria for these groups are yet to be defined, we are unable to estimate the number of elderly people that will receive support over these years.

[1] The minimum qualifying age for pension credit is based on, and will be rising in line with, women's state pension age. Under the legislation as it presently stands, women's state pension age is gradually increasing from 60 to 65 between April 2010 and April 2020.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of elderly people who will not be eligible for the Warm Home Discount in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* England, *(e)* Northern Ireland and *(f)* Wales in each of the next four financial years. [35689]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount, which included proposed eligibility arrangements, closed on 14 January. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

In this initial proposal, the focus of the scheme would be on providing support to older poorer pensioners through the Core Group, with support also available for other groups through the Broader Group and Legacy Spending.

Additional households will receive support through the Broader and Legacy groups of the Warm Home Discount over the four years of the scheme. These households will be found by energy suppliers, subject to their eligibility being approved by Ofgem. As eligibility criteria for these groups are yet to be defined, we are unable to estimate the number of elderly people who will not be eligible for Warm Home Discount.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to require energy supply companies to include low-income families with children within the Warm Home Discount. [35690]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount, which included proposed eligibility arrangements, closed on 14 January. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

In this initial proposal, the focus of the scheme would be on providing support to older poorer pensioners through the Core Group, with support also available for other groups through the Broader Group and Legacy Spending.

Additional households will receive support through the Broader and Legacy groups of the Warm Home Discount over the four years of the scheme. These households will be found by energy suppliers, subject to their eligibility being approved by Ofgem.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many submissions were received during his Department's Warm Home Discount consultation; how many of those submissions called for terminally ill people to be included in the core group to receive the Warm Home Discount automatically; and when his Department plans to publish its response to the Warm Home Discount consultation. [35691]

Gregory Barker: A response to the Warm Home Discount consultation will be published in due course.

1,800 responses were received which call for terminally ill people to be included in the core group. 1,847 responses were received to the consultation as a whole.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in fuel poverty are eligible for social tariffs provided by energy supply companies. [35737]

Gregory Barker: Under the terms of the voluntary agreement, suppliers undertook to assist their vulnerable and fuel poor customers. Each supplier has discretion as to who they target assistance to, the eligibility criteria applied and the level of support given.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of people in fuel poverty who will be eligible for his Department's Warm Home Discount in each of the next four financial years. [35845]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount, which included proposed eligibility arrangements, closed on 14 January. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

An estimate of the number of households which would be lifted out of fuel poverty by the Warm Home Discount is included in the Impact Assessment accompanying the consultation. This can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/warmhome/warmhome.aspx

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of families with children aged under 16 years in fuel poverty which will be eligible for his Department's Warm Home Discount in each of the next four financial years. [35847]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount, which included proposed eligibility arrangements, closed on 14 January. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

In this initial proposal, the focus of the scheme would be on providing support to older poorer pensioners through the core group, with support also available for other groups through the Broader Group and Legacy Spending

Additional households will receive support through the Broader and Legacy groups of the Warm Home Discount over the four years of the scheme. These households will be found by energy suppliers, subject to their eligibility being approved by Ofgem. As eligibility criteria for these groups are yet to be defined, we are unable to estimate the number of families with children under 16 years who will be eligible for the Warm Home Discount.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with the six largest energy companies on levels of domestic energy bills. [36098]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues. It is important that consumers have the lowest possible energy bills, consistent with the need to invest to reduce carbon emissions from energy and ensure security of supply.

Ofgem therefore monitors the market closely and reports quarterly on retail prices. Their latest report shows large increases in estimated supplier margins for the year ahead, largely due to recent price increases. We are disappointed on behalf of consumers by this development and welcome the announcement of Ofgem's review of the retail market. Ofgem will report on this review in March of this year. This announcement is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/PressRel/Documents1/Retail%20Market%2026%20November.pdf

Fuel Poverty: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who are living in fuel poverty. [36203]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the latest year for which this information is available, there were around 3,200 fuel poor households in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. This is equivalent to approximately 9% of all households in the constituency.

Solar Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 981W, on solar power, what possible approaches to setting the trigger for an early review of feed-in tariffs were considered. [35005]

Charles Hendry: At the stakeholder event referred to in my answer of 20 December 2010, consideration was given to a range of approaches to setting the trigger for an early review of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme. Discussion centred around possible metrics for defining deployment, including spend, electricity generation and installed capacity, as well as the level of deployment to use. The starting point was the projections of FITs uptake that informed the impact assessment published prior to the start of the scheme.

A range of views were also expressed about the concept of a trigger-based approach to reviewing FITs. Some participants suggested that, in the light of the spending review, there might be a case for starting the review rather than waiting for it to be triggered.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the merits of including within the Warm Home Discount a compulsory rebate by energy providers to families with children on household incomes below £16,190 per annum. [35971]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount, which included proposed eligibility arrangements, closed on 14 January. The responses to the consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

In this initial proposal, the focus of the scheme would be on providing support to older poorer pensioners through the core group, with support also available for other groups through the Broader Group and Legacy Spending.

Additional households will receive support through the Broader and Legacy groups of the Warm Home Discount over the four years of the scheme. These households will be found by energy suppliers, subject to their eligibility being approved by Ofgem.

Wind Power: Carbon Emissions

Mr Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 482W, on wind power: carbon emissions, what the size was of the adjustment made to take account of intermittency on the efficiency of plant used for back-up during times that wind power was not available. [36153]

Charles Hendry: The Department's adjustment was one hundred thousand tonnes of CO_2, based on an initial analysis of the efficiencies of thermal power plant. This is less than 2% of the overall emissions saved in 2009.

Wind Power: Finance

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of subsidies for *(a)* on-shore and *(b)* off-shore wind energy providers in the latest period for which figures are available. [36104]

Charles Hendry: We are currently reviewing the level of support for all renewables technologies, and will consult on any changes to renewables obligation (RO) bands this summer. As part of that process, we have asked our consultants Arup and Ernst and Young to provide updated assumptions on potential deployment and costs for each renewable electricity technology.

DECC calculations suggest the levels of wind needed to meet our 2020 renewable energy target imply a subsidy cost of around £5 billion in 2020 through the renewables obligation and around £360 million through the climate change levy exemption (both figures in 2010 prices, undiscounted). Note that these figures represent the total spending. Analysis published in 2009 published lower subsidy cost figures based on the additional level of spending resulting from the increase in renewables ambition, on a different price basis.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of persons in *(a)* Glasgow North East constituency, *(b)* Glasgow, *(c)* Scotland, *(d)* England, *(e)* Wales, *(f)* Northern Ireland, and *(g)* the UK who did not have a basic bank account in each of the last four years. [35898]

Mr Hoban: On 10 December 2010 the Government released the latest figures on the 'unbanked' drawn from the Family Resources Survey. The figures show that in 2008-09 1.54 million adults in the UK did not have access to a current or basic bank account. The Government have not broken these figures down by region.

Building and Mutual Societies

John Stevenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to support building societies and mutuals. [33647]

Mr Hoban: The Government are committed to promoting building societies and other financial mutuals, to help further their aim of increasing diversity in the provision of financial services. They are considering how to modify building society legislation to provide more flexibility in structure, and to support the position of societies' members in insolvency. The Government are also planning to update legislation in a number of other areas, including bringing Northern Ireland credit unions under the Financial Services Authority regulation, and introducing important deregulatory measures for industrial and provident societies and credit unions, through a legislative reform order.

Child Benefit

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism he plans to put in place to identify households which will no longer be eligible for child benefit payments under his proposals for welfare reform where the claimant is not a higher rate taxpayer and their partner's income is unknown. [34848]

Mr Gauke: The change to child benefit announced at the spending review does not change the eligibility criteria for child benefit payments. Where a person is currently entitled to receive child benefit they will continue to be entitled to receive payments regardless of whether they or their partner is a higher rate taxpayer. In these circumstances, it is the responsibility of the higher rate taxpayer to notify HM Revenue and Customs that their household is in receipt of child benefit, which will then be recovered through the tax system.

Nic Dakin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a single parent living in a household with *(a)* a parent and *(b)* a child who is a higher rate taxpayer will be eligible for child benefit payments under his proposals for welfare reform. [34849]

Mr Gauke: Child benefit will be withdrawn from families where the claimant, or their partner (with whom they are living) is a higher rate taxpayer. As such, the income of any other child of the claimant or any other member of the household who is not the claimant or their partner would be irrelevant.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the process for the distribution of the child care element of tax credit to ensure that direct payment may be made to carers on whose behalf the element is claimed. [34793]

Mr Gauke: The purpose of the child care element of the working tax credit is to facilitate parental employment. Cash payments direct to parents provide them with the choice and flexibility that they need in order to work. The provision of child care is a commercial arrangement between a parent and the provider and the child care element is not claimed on behalf of child care providers.

Children: Day Care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* cost of child care for a low-paid worker and *(b)* cost to the public purse of child care provision for a low-paid worker in the last year for which figures are available. [35209]

Mr Gauke: I have made no estimate of the average cost of child care for a low-paid worker. As at December 2010 the average cost to the public purse of child care provision provided through the child care element of working tax credits is £69.50 a week.

In addition the Department of Education also funds 15 hours per week (for 38 weeks a year) of free early education for all three and four-year-olds. This is also being extended gradually to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds. Local authorities in England spent over £4 billion on provision for under fives last year, on the early education entitlement and reception classes in schools.

Corporation Tax

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs made of the number of companies liable for corporation tax in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; how many such companies were sent a corporation tax return for an accounting period ending in each of those years; how many submitted the corporation tax return (i) within the required time limit and (ii) after the limit in each of those years; and how many were not sent a corporation tax return or a reminder to submit one in each of those years. [33953]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs sends a notice to file a company tax return to every company which it believes to be active, so with any possibility of having a corporation tax liability.

A notice to file a return is for an accounting period of up to one year and is sent to a company in the month following the end of the period. The time limit for submitting the return is one year after the end of the period, but some returns are received after the time limit.

HM Revenue and Customs sent the following number of notices to file in respect of accounting periods ending in the following years:

	Number
2007-08	1,925,000
2008-09	1,961,000
2009-10	1,796,000

The figures include more than one notice for some companies, for example ones that are recently incorporated.

As regards returns filed: Complete data for accounting periods ending in 2009-10 are not yet available. This is because the time limit for accounting periods ending in March 2010 is not until March 2011, so some returns for that year are not yet due. Some late returns for earlier years are also still arriving, so figures for 2008-09 and even 2007-08 are also subject to minor change.

By the end of November 2010:

1,390,000 returns had been filed within the time limit for 2007-08 liabilities and 184,000 returns had been filed after the limit;

1,402,000 returns had been filed within the time limit for 2008-09 liabilities and 98,000 returns had been filed after the limit;

1,162,000 returns had been filed within the time limit for 2009-10 liabilities and 21,000 returns had been filed after the limit.

There is a significant balance of notices for each year which have not resulted in the delivery of a return. Where HMRC believes that a return is indeed outstanding, they make a determination of tax and pursue payment. The determination can be displaced only by delivery of a return. But in many more cases, information received since the issue of the notice has shown that no return is in fact required. Typically that will be the case where more accurate information about the true accounting periods of the company is received, or where HMRC learns that the company had gone into insolvent liquidation or ceased to trade.

If a company has not submitted its return two months before the filing date a reminder is sent. It is not possible to isolate the number of return reminders as a single output type is used for pure return reminders for payment reminders and for combined return and payment reminders.

Departmental Furniture

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on furniture since May 2010. [34546]

Justine Greening: Spending on furniture and equipment for complete financial years is shown in Note 11 (Tangible fixed assets) in HM Treasury's Resource Accounts. For the period 1 June 2010 to 31 December 2010, no spending was incurred on furniture and equipment.

Departmental Manpower

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what new units and teams have been set up in his Department since May 2010; and what the *(a)* name, *(b)* purpose, *(c)* number of staff and *(d)* total annual costs is for each such unit or team. [34538]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has established the following new teams and units since May 2010, in addition to those created from the renaming or merger of existing teams:

Independent Commission on Equitable Life Payments
Independent Commission on Banking
Independent Public Service Pensions Commission
Fair Pay Review Secretariat
Office for Budget Responsibility
Office of Budget Responsibility Design Team
Office of Tax Simplification.

HM Treasury staff allocated to these new units were redeployed from existing civil service posts. The coalition agreement and Budget 2010 (HC61) set out the context for the creation and purpose of each of these new units. HM Treasury published details of the resources allocated to each of its teams in its organisational structure charts on its website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

in October 2010 and has committed to updating this information regularly.

Departmental Offices

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010. [34547]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 937W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Weaver Vale (Graham Evans).

Departmental Redundancy

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [34536]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to a previous question answered on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 147W, regarding severance payments to Ministers and special advisers. Nil expenditure has been made on redundancy costs to civil servants.

Employment: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the likely change in the number of *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector jobs in Barnsley East constituency in the period to 2015. [36100]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) was formed in May 2010 to make an independent assessment of the public finances and the economy.

On 29 November 2010, the OBR released the official forecast for total employment and general government employment, updated for the spending review announcements.

As the OBR sets out in paragraph 3.98, page 62 of its "November 2010 Economic and fiscal outlook" (Cm 7979), it expects total employment to rise by 1.1 million over the next five years, from 29.0 million in 2010 to 30.1 million in 2015. General government employment is projected to fall by just over 400,000 between 2010-11 and 2015-16, more than offset by a rise in market sector employment of around 1.5 million.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national basis.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussion HM Revenue and Customs has had with the European Commission on the classification of duty on ready-to-drink beverages. [35771]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 24 January 2011]*: HMRC have taken part in discussions and workshops with the European Commission regarding possible changes to Council Directive 92/83 on the harmonisation of the structures of excise duties on alcohol and alcoholic beverages. The Commission is seeking to update the directive to bring it into line with current commercial and tax practices. The classification of ready-to-drink beverages was part of these wider discussions.

HMRC have also been in communication with the Commission regarding the interpretation of the directive in light of the judgment in the European Court of Justice case (C-150/08—Siebrand BV *v.* Staatssecretaris van Financien) which sought to provide clarification in this area.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the effect of fuel duty on small business. [33819]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers routinely discuss a range of issues with Cabinet colleagues.

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department is making on the introduction of a rural fuel duty rebate in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles and the Isles of Scilly; and if he will assess the merits of extending the rebate to the Isle of Wight. [35967]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 1143W, to the hon. Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Mr MacNeil). The Government is considering the exact scope of the pilots and at present has announced its intention to include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, and the Isles of Scilly.

Fuels: Prices

Naomi Long: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on the development of a fuel duty stabiliser; [35569]

(2) what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on the variation in the effects on different regions of fuel price increases; and whether he plans to bring forward proposals to address this matter. [35570]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith). Treasury Ministers routinely discuss matters of mutual interest with members of the devolved Administrations.

Income Tax

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the number of households with children and one or more individuals paying income tax at the higher rate in April 2011. [32392]

Mr Gauke: In 2011-12 there are estimated to be around 160,000 more households with children aged 19 or younger containing one or more individuals paying income tax at the higher rate than in 2010-11. These households are all within the top 20% of household incomes.

Stamp Duties

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the effect on Exchequer receipts from stamp duty of reductions in property prices attributable to the construction of High Speed Two. [35983]

Mr Gauke: No such estimate has been made at this time.

Tax Allowances: Cycling

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* employers and *(b)* employees have participated in the cycle-to-work scheme in the months August to December in each of the last five years. [35347]

Mr Gauke: This information is not collected by Government.

Employers are not required to report to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs that they offer a cycle-to-work scheme to their employees, or the level of uptake where it is offered.

WALES

Constituencies

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what dates and at what locations she has met Cabinet colleagues to discuss proposed changes to the number of parliamentary constituencies in Wales. [35608]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues on issues affecting Wales, including the Government's plans for constitutional reform.

Courts: Closures

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many written representations she has received on the issue of court closures in Wales. [35539]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales has received three written representations on the issue of court closures in Wales.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings she has had with Cabinet colleagues on the issue of proposed court closures in Wales. [35541]

Mr David Jones: The Secretary of State for Wales and I have met with the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr Djanogly) to discuss the proposed court closures in Wales and discussions are ongoing.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what measures she has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35780]

Mr David Jones: My Department attaches great importance to communicating not only in plain English but plain Welsh as well. All staff are required to have effective communication skills, and support is available to help them achieve the standards we expect.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press officers her Department employs *(a)* in London and *(b)* in Cardiff; and how many press officers it employed in each location in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [35609]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office currently has three press officer posts—the same number as in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Press Office staff are required to divide their working time between Wales and London depending on the business of the week.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff her Department employs; and how many it employed in 2009. [35612]

Mr David Jones: As at 1 January 2011 the Wales Office employs 56 members of staff. On 1 January 2009 it employed 59 members of staff.

Official Visits

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) on how many occasions she has visited Ceredigion constituency on official business since her appointment; [35590]

(2) what plans she has to visit Montgomeryshire constituency on official business in the next six months; [35591]

(3) on how many occasions she has visited Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency in an official capacity since her appointment. [35613]

Mrs Gillan: I have yet to visit Ceredigion, Montgomeryshire or Dwyfor Meirionnydd in an official capacity. However I intend to carry out numerous ministerial visits across Wales in the coming months.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what dates and at what locations she has held meetings to discuss the Severn Barrage scheme since her appointment. [35611]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues, Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and other stakeholders on future energy production including the Severn Barrage.

In October 2010, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change published the Severn Tidal Power feasibility study which clearly shows that there is no strategic case for a scheme for generating energy in the Severn estuary at this time. It is our opinion that other low carbon options represent a better deal for industry and consumers.

S4C

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many written representations she has received on the future of S4C. [35592]

Mrs Gillan: I have received 15 direct written representations, together with five letters that were copied to me regarding the future of S4C from members of the public, hon. Members, Assembly Members and peers.

I have also had numerous meetings relating to the future of S4C with stakeholders including several meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister.

South Wales Railway Line: Electrification

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions she has had with representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government on the electrification of the South Wales main line; [35540]

(2) on how many occasions she has met with Cabinet colleagues to discuss the issue of the electrification of the South Wales main line railway line. [35542]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular meetings with the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister to discuss a range of issues affecting Wales, including the electrification of the South Wales main line.

I also have had regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues regarding the electrification of the South Wales main line and these discussions are ongoing.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Tibet: Human Rights

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he raised the issue of human rights in Tibet during the recent visit of the Chinese Vice-Premier. [35566]

The Deputy Prime Minister: In my meeting with Vice-Premier Li, I raised the issue of human rights in Tibet.

JUSTICE

Courts: Closures

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost, in each cost category, of closing each courthouse scheduled for closure under his proposals. [35545]

Mr Djanogly: Discussions are currently ongoing with landlords, construction and removal firms. Releasing details of the estimated costs for closing each courthouse would adversely impact on these discussions.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of staff *(a)* in each courthouse to be closed and *(b)* in total who will be made redundant under his proposals for courthouse closures. [35548]

Mr Djanogly: Following the decisions announced on 14 December, HMCS has commenced an internal consultation on staff impacts using the management of organisational change framework (MOCF) to look at staff impacts across the Court Estate Reform Programme. During this period HMCS will conduct discussion with the Department trade union side and with staff (on a one-to-one basis) to consider how the changes will affect them. Only after these discussions take place will we be in a position to know the impact on staff.

After the MOCF consultation has concluded, HMCS will implement a phased approach to closures from April 2011.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people, *(b)* disabled people and *(c)* people of pensionable age in (i) Wales, (ii) Greater Manchester, (iii) the Humber and South Yorkshire, (iv) Kent, Surrey and Sussex, (v) London, (vi) Staffordshire and West Mercia, (vii) Warwickshire and the West Midlands, (viii) Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk, (ix) Cheshire and Merseyside, (x) Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and the Thames Valley, (xi) Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria, (xii) Cumbria and Lancashire, (xiii) Devon and Cornwall, Avon and Somerset and Gloucestershire; (xiv) Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and Wiltshire and (xv) the East Midlands who will live further than one public transport commute from their local court following implementation of his proposals for courthouse closures. [35553]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation response documents detail the percentage of the population in each area estimated to be within a 60 minute public transport commute of their local court, before and after closures. Due to the size and complexity of the data it would be necessary to analyse in order to provide estimates of the impact on the public transport commute of individual groups of people, such estimates have not been made.

The equality impact assessments (EIAs) that accompany each of the 16 HMCS area consultation responses papers identify the potential impacts of the court estate reform programme on different communities and groups of people.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the disposal or alternative use of each court building in Wales identified for closure under his proposals of 14 December 2010. [35589]

Mr Djanogly: HMCS is currently conducting detailed planning on the implementation of the closures that I announced on 14 December 2010.

While buildings are being decommissioned, HMCS's professional estate advisors will provide a full marketing strategy for those properties to be disposed of. Following instruction they will arrange marketing with advertisements in local journals and liaison with local authorities regarding potential future use. HMCS will have regard to HM Treasury guidelines, which state that the Department is obliged to obtain the best possible price in disposing of properties.

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many representations he received in respect of each proposed court closure *(a)* before and *(b)* after the close of the consultation; and how many of these (i) supported, (ii) opposed and (iii) were neutral on the court closure in each case. [35895]

Mr Djanogly: Full details of the responses to consultation on each court are available in the consultation response papers, which can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultations-closed-with-response.htm

In total over 2,500 responses were received expressing views relating to proposals on individual courts, groups of proposals within an area or proposals in relation to courts across the whole of England and Wales.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35782]

Mr Djanogly: Communications provide an advisory and editing rôle in simplifying language for internal and external audiences. The guidance and advice on promoting use of plain English are available to staff on the internal website.

In 2010 the following measures were undertaken to reduce jargon in departmental communications:

Internal workshops, for IT and finance professionals that included signposting participants to the campaign for Plain English website.

Internal 'Writing for web' workshops are regularly run for the Ministry's HQ staff.

MoJ content on Directgov has been developed with the needs of the user in mind and is written for a readership age of nine years old.

Sentencing Council and Youth Justice Board and selected public information on the Ministry of Justice's website are presented in simplified versions.

Juror, victims and witnesses guides and DVDs are specifically written so that they are clear and easy to understand.

Your Justice Your World was developed to enable educators to provide information to young people about justice in a clear and straightforward way.

Departmental Conferences

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on conferences since May 2010. [35353]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is a large Department employing over 80,000 people in over 800 locations including courts, prisons and local offices.

The Ministry of Justice (including MoJ headquarters, Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service, National Offender Management Service and the Office of the Public Guardian) has spent £2.1 million on events and conferences between May 2010 and December 2010.

It is not possible to break this amount down to purely conferences without incurring disproportionate costs by examining each individual transaction. Many of these events will have been related to staff and judicial training, policy changes, question and answer sessions with senior staff about the impact of the spending review, as well as exchange of best practice in different fields.

Departmental Consultants

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on consultants since May 2010. [35355]

Mr Djanogly: The amount the MoJ Core Department and its Agencies spent on consultancy between May and December 2010 was £7 million.

This figure includes data for Ministry of Justice HQ and the executive agencies: the National Offender Management Service; the Office of the Public Guardian; HM Courts Service; and the Tribunals Service.

In specific circumstances consultancy support offers the MoJ a fast and flexible way of obtaining skills and experience that are not available in-house. All contracts, in such cases, are let with best value for money in mind and follow established OGC frameworks. They are only used when there is a compelling business need to do so; they are used to provide specialist skills and expertise for a limited period of time where in-house skills are not available.

This figure is not yet audited and may be subject to change following audit. Some of this total may be for non-consultancy work carried out by suppliers who also supplied consultancy services.

Departmental Furniture

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on furniture since May 2010. [35191]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice HQ (MoJ) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have spent £2,496,596 on furniture since May 2010. MoJ and NOMS share a procurement department so their total spend is produced as a single figure. As a part of the estates rationalisation project NOMS HQ moved from two buildings, Cleland house and Abell house, to one building, Clive house, during the summer of 2010. Some of the spend during this period was on furniture for the new HQ building, where some of the furniture from older buildings could not be reused due to wear and tear. The estates rationalisation programme is reducing the London estate from 18 buildings to four. This is anticipated to save £41 million by 2015.

The Tribunals Service spent £32,583 on furniture between May and December 2010.

The Office of the Public Guardian has spent £10,000 on furniture since May 2010.

HM Courts Service has spent £1,059,353 on furniture since May 2010.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35405]

Mr Djanogly: The staff numbers provided add together civil servants from the following:

Ministry of Justice HQ;
NOMS Agency;
HMCS;
Tribunals;
Office of the Parent Guardian;
Wales Office; and
Scotland Office.

Since May 2010 the Ministry of Justice has appointed 1,468 women and 1,475 men.

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
Male	1,475	1,435.69
Female	1,468	1,392.04
Total	2,943	2,827.73

Source: MoJ, NOMS Agency and Scottish Government HR systems.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35427]

Mr Djanogly: Details of public appointments made by, or on behalf of, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), have been placed in the Libraries of the House. These include appointments and reappointments regulated and not regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). This information is not held centrally, but details of key public appointments made since May 2010 are published in individual press releases. These should include information on remuneration. Press releases are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/

Departmental Temporary Employment

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials of his Department were employed on fixed-term contracts in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the job title was of each such appointment. [35214]

Mr Djanogly: The fixed-term contract numbers provided add together civil servants from the following: Ministry of Justice HQ, NOMS Agency, HMCS, Tribunals, Office of the Public Guardian, Wales Office and Scotland Office. In order to give a consistent view across the Ministry in respect of job titles, the figures are shown separately for MoJ and NOMS Agency due to the two HR systems in use.

As at 31 December 2010 there were 1,981 (FTE: 1,894.58) fixed-term contractors employed by the Ministry of Justice.

Ministry of Justice—FTC

Grade	*FTC headcount*	*FTC fixed-term equivalent*
Administrative assistant	312	271.06
Administrative officer	851	826.61
Team leader/supervisor	76	73.42
Team manager	40	38.90
Senior manager	23	21.98
Head of section	46	45.67
Fast streamer	0	0.00
Senior civil servant	8	8.00
Total	1,356	1,285.63

Source:
MoJ HR Oracle Database, MoJ staff on the NOMS Agency HR Oracle Database and Scotland Office staff on the Scottish Government HR Database

NOMS Agency—FTC as at 31 December 2010

Grade	*FTC headcount*	*FTC fixed-term equivalent*
Administrative assistant	18	16.14
Administrative officer	75	67.01
Executive officer	4	4.00
Industrial	18	18.00
Manager E	8	8.00
Manager F	4	1.86
Manager G	7	7.00
Nursing grades	2	1.35
Operational support grade	463	462.00
Professional and technical officer	1	0.43
Psychological assistant	7	7.00
Senior manager B	2	1.63
Senior manager C	1	1.00
Senior manager D	5	5.00
Substance misuse worker	1	1.00
Support band 1	1	0.52
Support band 2	5	4.00
Trainee psychologist	3	3.00
Total	625	608.95

Source:
NOMS Agency HR Oracle Database

Domestic Violence

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legal support is available for victims of domestic violence who have more than £8,000 of equity in their home. [35879]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission has the power to waive all the civil legal aid financial eligibility limits for legal representation for the victims of domestic violence. The waiver applies to any application for legal representation in proceedings where a client either seeks an injunction or other order for protection from harm; or for a breach of that order.

HM Courts Service: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many full-time equivalent staff are employed at each courthouse in Wales identified for closure under his proposals of 14 December 2010; and how many such staff will be transferred. [35588]

Mr Djanogly: The numbers of full-time equivalent staff at each closing court in Wales as at 30 December 2010 are provided in the following table.

	FTE
Magistrates court name:	
Aberdare magistrates court	9.41
Abertillery magistrates court	0.27
Ammanford magistrates court	0

	FTE
Barry magistrates court	7.54
Cardigan magistrates court	0
Chepstow magistrates court	0
Denbigh magistrates court	29.54
Flint magistrates court	0
Llandovery magistrates court	0
Llangefni magistrates court	0
Llwynypia magistrates court	0
Pwllheli magistrates court	0
County court name:	
Aberdare county court	0.8
Chepstow county court	0
Pontypool county court	1
Rhyl county court	15.87
Total	64.43

Note:
The information provided is correct as at 30 December 2010.
Source:
Ministry of Justice HR Directorate database

It is not yet possible to say how many staff will be transferred to other courts. Following the decisions announced on 14 December, HMCS has commenced an internal consultation on staff impacts using the Management of Organisational Change Framework (MOCF) to look at staff impacts across the Court Estate Reform programme. During this period, HMCS will conduct discussion with the Department Trade Union Side and with staff (on a one-to-one basis) to consider how the changes will affect them. Only after these discussions take place will we be in a position to know the impact on staff.

After the MOCF consultation has concluded, HMCS will implement a phased approach to closures from April 2011.

Legal Aid

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his Department's cumulative equalities impact assessment, what steps he plans to take to ensure that *(a)* women, *(b)* disabled people and *(c)* black and minority ethnic people are not disproportionately affected by reductions in the legal aid budget. [35538]

Mr Djanogly: The initial cumulative equalities impact assessment (EIA) that was published alongside the consultation 'Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales' identifies the potential for some of the civil legal aid proposals to disproportionately affect women, disabled people and black, asian, and minority ethnic people. This appears to be primarily a reflection of the composition of the client base of civil legal aid recipients. People from these groups are overrepresented among recipients of civil legal aid services—because of this any changes to the system have the potential to affect them more.

The EIA also explains the Government's initial view that any such disadvantage would be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim and therefore justified for reasons which are set out for each of the proposals. Legal aid must make a substantial contribution to necessary reductions in the budget of the Ministry of Justice. Our proposals seek to deliver these savings in a fair, balanced and sustainable way, targeting legal aid on those who need it most, for the most serious cases in which legal advice or representation is justified.

One of the purposes of publishing the initial EIA is to allow respondents to the consultation to comment on our assessment of the potential impact of the proposals. We will take this feedback into account in finalising our proposals and making decisions on the final proposals for implementation. We will also complete a final EIA, updating the analysis we have already published and incorporating evidence on the impact on different groups submitted during the consultation. This will be published alongside the Government's response to the consultation.

Legal Services Commission

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation relating to pursuing actions for clinical negligence in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [35715]

(2) how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation relating to consumer law and general contract issues in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [35716]

(3) how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation relating to education law issues in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [35717]

(4) how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation relating to the provision of welfare benefits in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [35718]

Mr Djanogly: The information is provided in the following table.

£ million

Category of law	*Civil representation*[1]	*Legal help*	*Total*
Clinical negligence	27.0	0.8	27.8
Consumer law and general contract issues	2.4	0.5	2.9
Education	1.4	2.0	3.4
Welfare Benefits	0.1	24.7	24.8

[1] Civil representation is work funded under a legal aid certificate. However, a case may settle outside of court before the need for representation in court.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation in housing matters in cases involving homelessness and housing disrepair (non-damages) in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [35719]

(2) how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation in housing matters other than cases involving homelessness and housing disrepair (non-damages) in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [35720]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the expenditure on housing cases in 2008-09 for legal help and representation.

Other legal help includes payments made to telephone advice services, community legal advice centres. It is not, however, possible to provide a breakdown of total spend within this category.

£ million

	Representation	Legal help	Other legal help
Homelessness	2.6	5.9	n/a
Housing disrepair	0.4	1.8	n/a
Other	26.7	14.7	n/a
Total	29.8	22.4	6.9

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) of 11 November 2010 in regard to Israr Hussain Malik. [36053]

Mr Djanogly: The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke), will reply shortly. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Offenders: Mental Health

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanism his Department has put in place to ensure that GPs work with public protection agencies in the care of offenders with mental health disorders; and if he will make a statement. [36228]

Mr Blunt: Under section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, every health authority or strategic health authority has a duty to co-operate with the "responsible authorities" charged with assessing and managing the risk of harm presented by sexual, violent and other high risk offenders, including those with mental health problems. The responsible authorities for any area are the chief officer of police, the probation trust and the Minister of the Crown exercising functions in relation to prisons, acting jointly. Responsible authorities and agencies with a duty to co-operate with the responsible authorities are required to draw up a memorandum of understanding, setting out the ways in which they are to co-operate in the management of relevant offenders. The role of GPs in this process and the care of their patients should be covered by the relevant health authority contribution to the memorandum.

Prison Service: Rehabilitation

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Prison Officers Association on the role of prison officers in the rehabilitation of offenders. [35853]

Mr Blunt: A meeting with the POA to discuss the Rehabilitation Revolution Green Paper took place on 24 November 2010. There have been no further ministerial meetings with the POA that have been dedicated to discussing the role of prison officers in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Prisoners

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of prisoners who had no fixed address when they *(a)* entered custody and *(b)* left custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [35706]

Mr Blunt: Accommodation matters are managed locally, and the proportion of prisoners who enter and leave custody with no fixed address is not collected centrally.

The Ministry of Justice's Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis which was published 4 November 2010 includes findings from 'Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction', a cohort survey of 3,849 prisoners sentenced in 2005-06 and serving between one month and four years. 15% of prisoners surveyed reported having been homeless prior to custody.

Prisoners: Mental Health

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the recent conclusions made by the Chief Inspector of Prisons on the mental health of prisoners in HM Prison Brixton. [35619]

Mr Blunt: The Inspectorate of Prisons visited HMP Brixton between 1 and 10 December. The Inspectorate has not yet submitted the draft report of that inspection. Upon receipt of the report the National Offender Management Service will respond to all the recommendations, including any relating to mental health.

Re-offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on re-offending rates of the frequency of visits to prison inmates. [36208]

Mr Blunt: Surveys of prisoners shortly before release in 2001, 2003, and 2004 showed that 52% of prisoners who were visited by a partner or family member in prison re-offended compared with 70% of those who were not visited by a partner or family member. However, it is not clear if the prison visits caused the reduction in re-offending directly, or whether they are indicators of other important factors, such as strength of familial relationships and community ties.

Senior Civil Servants

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what senior civil service staff moves there have been in his Department since May 2010; and what the *(a)* name and *(b)* salary is of each person (i) moving posts within and (ii) leaving his Department. [35437]

Mr Djanogly: Since May 2010, six senior civil servants have moved posts within the Ministry of Justice, and 34 have left. Individual names and salaries cannot be disclosed, but the following table shows the number of staff involved whose salary (either current or at the point of departure) falls within each bracket of £20,000:

Salary range	*Total*
£60,000-£79,999	17
£80,000-£99,999	13
£100,000-£119,999	5
£120,000-£139,999	4
£140,000-£159,999	0
£160,000-£179,999	1
Total	40

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what senior civil service staff exits from his Department there have been since May 2010; and what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* non-contractual payments have been made as part of such exits. [35438]

Mr Djanogly: There have been 34 senior civil service staff exits from the Ministry of Justice since May 2010. A total of £671,573 contractual payments and £260,749 non-contractual payments have been made in relation to these exits.

Sentencing

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months have been convicted of *(a)* violence against the person offences, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* drug offences on the most recent date for which figures are available. [36048]

Mr Blunt: From the most recent available data, 31 December 2010, the number of prisoners serving sentences of less than 12 months was *(a)* 1,551 for violence against the person offences, *(b)* 229 for sexual offences, *(c)* 461 for burglary, *(d)* 113 for robbery and *(e)* 202 for drug offences.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Units and Teams

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* units and *(b)* teams have been set up in his Department since May 2010; and what the (i) name, (ii) purpose, (iii) number of staff and (iv) annual running costs are for each such unit or team. [35253]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is currently restructuring, prioritising front line delivery, in order to ensure that it provides effective and efficient front line services. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the HM Courts Service, the Tribunals Service, the National Offender Management Service, the Office of the Public Guardian and a number of other arm's length bodies, as well as corporate and policy functions in its headquarters.

To answer the question, each member of the senior civil service across the Department's range of business would need to separately indentify the required information and this would then have to be centrally collated. This would incur disproportionate cost to the Department.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bed and Breakfast Accommodation: Greater London

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which five towns accommodated the largest number of bed and breakfast placements that had been funded by London borough councils in the last 13 years for each such council. [35207]

Andrew Stunell: Information is not held centrally on the location of bed and breakfast placements funded by local authorities.

Data are collected on the number of households in bed and breakfast style temporary accommodation arranged under homelessness legislation. National figures for the past 13 years can be found in table 6 of the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1791620.xls

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly P1E returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Releases on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors informed his Department's decision to reduce the formula grant for concessionary bus travel for *(a)* Torbay council and *(b)* Devon county council for financial year 2011-12. [35249]

Robert Neill: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend it on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service, including concessionary travel.

Citizen Engagement

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to encourage citizen engagement since May 2010. [35809]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to building a big society in which all citizens have more say in the future of their community.

Since May the Department for Communities and Local Government has introduced new legislation and removed bureaucracy to achieve this ambition.

The Localism Bill contains a wide range of measures to devolve more powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities greater control over local decisions. It encourages citizen engagement by giving local people more power over local government and over how public money is spent in their area, and ensures that councillors are more directly accountable to them; and it enables local people to drive real change, encouraging them to get actively involved in planning, housing and other local services.

This is supported by our drive for greater transparency on how public money is spent, so local people have the information they need to hold Government to account. We have also removed needless bureaucracy such as comprehensive area assessments and centrally-imposed targets to free councils to serve their communities better.

Community Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings Ministers and officials of his Department have had with the Local Government Association Selector Panel on the proposals by councils to be implemented under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007; and what the outcomes were of those meetings. [33486]

Greg Clark: I held several conversations with Councillor Keith Mitchell in his capacity as Chair of the Selector Panel during the course of 2010. On 23 November 2010, I met Councillor Mitchell and representatives of the Selector Panel to discuss proposals submitted under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

Officials have also regularly discussed proposals with their counterparts from the Local Government Association. These constructive discussions have been helpful and have influenced the Secretary of State's decisions, published on 15 December 2010.

On 15 December 2010, I issued a second invitation to local authorities to consult people and try to reach agreement with them about how to improve their local area. Local authorities can submit proposals through the new barrier-busting portal at:

http://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk

where progress on their consideration will be made transparent.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the implementation of shortlisted proposals for action under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [34031]

Greg Clark: The Secretary of State has detailed the actions he will take with a view to implementing, or implementing in part, proposals submitted under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, and when these will take place, in 'Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Decisions on proposals submitted following the 2008 invitation', published on 15 December 2010.

The Secretary of State will publish a progress report on any actions not completed by 15 December 2011.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to spread best practice in the development of social capital within communities. [35216]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are committed to giving people and front line professionals new rights and greater freedoms to shape their community by opening up public services to encourage more innovation, diversity and responsiveness. We also recognise that not all communities currently have the same level of capacity to take on new rights and responsibilities.

Any community group or organisation involved in developing local initiatives which rely on the commitment, ideas and energy of its members are encouraged to promote best practice and share learning.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will publish case studies, including the work of the big society vanguards, in due course. Furthermore, the big society awards, launched by the Prime Minister on 22 November, will recognise outstanding examples of social capital in action across the country.

We continue to work closely with the Local Government Association to encourage them to promote best practice among their members.

Departmental Internet

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the sale of advertising space on its website. [36146]

Robert Neill: The Department does not sell advertising space on its corporate website.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 809W, on departmental legal opinion, how much of the £430,804 spent by his Department on external legal fees in November 2010 is attributable to legal issues initiated under the previous administration. [32208]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

To place this in context, in relation to litigation, there are around 220 to 240 open cases at any one time with around 40 to 60 new cases entered and around the same number closed over a period of 12 months.

Housing

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of single occupancy residency is in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Easington constituency. [35262]

Andrew Stunell: An estimated 29% of households in England and 34% of households in the north-east were single person households in 2008-09. These estimates are based on data from the English Housing Survey. Estimates of the proportion of single person households at constituency level are not possible using survey data.

Based on 2001 census data, the proportion of single person households in England in 2001 was 30%; the proportion in the north-east was 31%; and the proportion in the Easington constituency (2010 boundary) was 28%.

Housing Associations: Pensions

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of housing associations which offer final salary pension schemes; and if he will estimate the deficits on the funds of such schemes *(a)* for each association and *(b)* in total. [35682]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held by the Department or by the regulator of social housing. Individual housing associations are required to publish details of their pension schemes in their annual audited accounts, governed by a reporting standard set by the Accounting Standards Board.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Community Agency has allocated to Accent Nene Housing Society for *(a)* social rented housing and *(b)* intermediate housing in Peterborough in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12 and (iii) 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [36152]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency has allocated a total of £948,000 in 2010-11 for schemes being developed by Accent Nene in Peterborough. Of these funds £752,000 is for social rented housing and £196,000 is for affordable home ownership.

For existing commitments through the National Affordable Housing Programme there is forecast expenditure of £474,000 in 2012-13 for Accent Nene in Peterborough including £98,000 for affordable home ownership. New allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13 will be made later in the year following the commencement of the new Affordable Homes Programme from April 2011.

Landlord and Tenant

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many tenants of *(a)* social landlords and *(b)* private landlords are resident in Liverpool, West Derby constituency. [35284]

Andrew Stunell *[holding answer 21 January 2011]*: Information is available on the number of households rather than the number of tenants. The number of households in each constituency which were *(a)* rented from the council, *(b)* other social rented and *(c)* private rented or living rent free, is available from the Census 2001. More recent information is not available.

Number of occupied households Liverpool, West Derby

	2001
Rented from council	9,989
Other social rented	2,703
Private rented or living rent free	4,072

Notes:
1. The terms used to describe tenure are defined as:
Other social rented includes rented from Registered Social Landlord, Housing association, Housing Co-operative and Charitable Trust.
Private rented: renting from a private landlord or letting agency, employer of a household member, or relative or friend of a household member or other person.
2. 'Living rent free' could include households that are living in accommodation other than private rented.
3. In general, a household's accommodation is defined as an unshared dwelling if all the rooms are behind a door that only that household can use.
Source:
Census 2001

Data on the number of dwellings owned by (a) local authorities, (b) registered social landlords and (c) in the private sector (rather than by private landlords), are available by local authority area as at 1 April 2010, including Liverpool, on the DCLG website in live table 100:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1783239.xls

Local Government Executive

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have indicated to his Department that they plan to move to committee-style governance arrangements after the enactment of the Localism Bill; and if he will make a statement. [34050]

Greg Clark: Brighton and Hove city council has indicated to my Department that they plan to move to committee-style governance arrangements after the enactment of the Localism Bill. We would expect more councils to consider the merits of the greater local choice on governance arrangements as the Localism Bill progresses through its legislative stages.

Local Government: Aarhus Convention

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the likely role of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in planning applications and decisions following enactment of the Localism Bill; and if he will make a statement. [34133]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: In December 2010 the Government submitted the United Kingdom's National Implementation Report under the Aarhus Convention to the Commission Secretariat. This set out the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken to implement the Convention. The Government consulted on this Report from 15 October to 17 November 2010.

Public participation in plan making and the right to make representations on individual planning applications are well established traditions in the UK and enshrined in planning law.

A firm commitment to promote democratic and local control is at the heart of our planning reforms as set out in the Localism Bill. Crucially, we will deliver a fundamental power shift by giving communities the right to develop neighbourhood plans and real power to shape, drive and permit development through Neighbourhood Development Orders, and we will require large developers to consult with communities prior to submitting planning applications.

Local Government: Petitions

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the local authority petition system after the enactment of the Localism Bill. [34054]

Greg Clark: Local authorities in England are currently required to have an overly prescriptive scheme in place for dealing with petitions from local people. We plan to repeal the petitions duty through the Localism Bill.

Prior to the imposition of the statutory duty in June 2010, councils up and down the land regularly and properly considered petitions from local residents. The new statutory duty just added unnecessary bureaucracy to the process.

Following enactment of the Localism Bill people will continue to submit petitions and their local authorities will continue to deal with the issues raised as they consider appropriate.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many petitions to local authorities were made in each local authority area in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [34885]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Local authorities are not required to provide central Government with data on the number of petitions they have received.

Local Government: Referendums

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will be responsible for the cost of holding local referendums under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [34053]

Greg Clark: Local authorities will be responsible for the cost of holding local referendums on local issues. The Government are committed to ensuring that additional burdens on local authorities are funded in accordance with the new burdens doctrine.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) of 29 November 2010 in regard to Mr F O'Flynn. [36054]

Grant Shapps: A reply was sent on 21 January 2011.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what consultation he plans to carry out as part of his review of business rates on *(a)* equalisation, *(b)* minimising the adverse effects in deprived areas and *(c)* the need to put in place appropriate support mechanisms; [35168]

(2) what the terms of reference are for the review of business rates which he is chairing; [35170]

(3) what objectives he has set for the review of business rates which he is chairing. [35171]

Robert Neill: The Local Growth White Paper "Local Growth: realising every place's potential" confirmed that the local government resource review would consider proposals to allow local authorities to retain locally-raised business rates. The review will commence in January and develop proposals by July 2011. The Secretary of State will make an announcement shortly about the review and its terms of reference.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely level of savings which will accrue from ending empty property business rate relief on all buildings with a rateable value higher than £2,600 from 1 April 2011. [34783]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 61-62WS.

Planning Permission: Appeals

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 480W, on planning permission: appeals, whether he plans to reform the right of appeal for *(a)* applicants and *(b)* opponents; and if he will make a statement. [32803]

Greg Clark: The Government's reforms to the planning system as set out in the Localism Bill do not contain proposals to reform the right of appeal.

Planning: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the public purse of implementing his proposals in the Localism Bill for individual neighbourhood plans in respect of Gateshead local authority area. [33200]

Greg Clark: We have made no separate assessment of the cost to the public purse of implementing neighbourhood plans in the Gateshead local authority area specifically. We will be publishing an Impact Assessment on our Neighbourhood Plan proposals in due course which will outline how the changes will increase sustainable development and deliver monetised benefits to local authorities and developers.

Voluntary Work

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will estimate the number and proportion of *(a)* young people and *(b)* pensioners involved in volunteering in each year for which figures are available; [35057]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of volunteering amongst unemployed people in each year for which data are available; [35058]

(3) what information his Department holds on levels of volunteering in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* socio-economic group. [35081]

Andrew Stunell: Data from the Citizenship Survey provide the percentage of young people (aged 16 to 25 years), retired people and unemployed people who participated in regular (at least once a month) formal and informal volunteering in England, plus a breakdown by socio-economic group. The table also provides estimates of the number of young people who participated in these activities. Estimates on the number of retired people participating in volunteering cannot be calculated because population estimates do not provide relevant numbers.

Table 1: Number of young people (aged 16-25) participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year

	Formal volunteering		*Informal volunteering*	
	Percentage[1]	*Estimated number (thousand)*[3]	*Percentage*[2]	*Estimated number (thousand)*[3]
2003	24	1,527	44	2,758
2005	28	1,848	46	3,051
2007-08	23	1,582	41	2,810
2008-09	24	1,644	38	2,662
2009-10	23	1,568	32	2,248

[1] None of the year-on-year changes for formal volunteering are statistically significant for young people.

[2] The only year on year statistically significant change for informal volunteering is from 2008-09 to 2009-10 for young people, where a decrease was found (38% to 32%).

[3] Estimated numbers are calculated by applying proportions from the Citizenship Survey to the Office of National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates for young people (aged 16-25).

Table 2: Proportion of pensioners participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year

Percentage

	Pensioners	
	Formal volunteering[1]	*Informal volunteering*[2]
2003	27	36
2005	27	34
2007-08	28	33
2008-09	27	36
2009-10	25	29

[1] None of the year-on-year changes for formal volunteering are statistically significant for retired people.

[2] Year on year significant changes for informal volunteering were from 2007-08 to 2008-09 (an increase from 33% to 36%) and 2008-09 to 2009-10 (a decrease from 36% to 29%—though this change may, in part, reflect a change in the way the question was asked in 2009-10), for retired people.

Table 3: Proportion of unemployed people participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) in England, by year

Percentage

	Unemployed people[1]	
	Formal volunteering[2]	*Informal volunteering*[2]
2003	25	43
2005	32	39
2007-08	23	40
2008-09	21	41
2009-10	24	32

[1] Unemployed people are defined as out of paid work but looking for employment (in the four weeks before interview).

[2] None of the year-on-year changes for unemployed people is statistically significant—there are low numbers of unemployed people answering this question meaning that large percentage point changes are required to detect a difference.

Table 4: Proportion of participating in formal and informal volunteering (at least once a month) in 2009-10, by socio-economic group, England

Percentage

Socio-economic classifications	*Formal volunteering*	*Informal volunteering*
Higher/lower managerial and professions	33	32
Intermediate occupations/small employers	25	30
Lower supervisory and technical/ semi-routine	20	28
Routine occupations	16	24
Never worked/long term unemployed	13	21
Full time students	30	32
Not stated/classified	17	24

Information on levels of volunteering in local authority areas is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Citizenship Survey definition of formal volunteering is:

'Giving unpaid help through groups, clubs or organisations to benefit other people or the environment'.

This excludes giving money and activities related to job requirements.

Formal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help through any UK groups, clubs or organisations via the following activities: raising or handling money/taking part in sponsored events; leading the group/member of a committee; organising or helping run an activity or event; visiting people; befriending or mentoring people; giving advice/information/counselling; secretarial, admin or clerical work; providing transport/driving; representing; campaigning; other practical help (e.g. helping out at school); and any other help.

The Citizenship Survey definition of informal volunteering is:

'Giving unpaid help as an individual to people who are not relatives'.

Informal volunteers are those who have given unpaid help to someone who is not a relative via the following activities: keeping in touch with someone who has difficulty getting out and about; doing shopping/collecting prescription/paying bills; cooking/cleaning /laundry/ gardening or other routine household jobs; decorating or doing any kind of home or car repairs; babysitting or caring for children; sitting with or providing personal care (e.g. washing, dressing) for someone who is sick or frail; looking after property or a pet for someone who is away; giving advice; writing letters or filling in forms; representing someone (e.g. talking to a council department or a doctor); transporting or escorting someone (e.g. to hospital).

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to answer question 32208 tabled on 16 December 2010 by the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr Raynsford) on external legal fees paid by his Department in November 2010. [35778]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* This question has now been answered.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36192]

David Mundell: Other than minor purchases, the Scotland Office does not undertake direct procurement or tendering projects. It utilises existing service contracts between suppliers and the Scottish Government or the Ministry of Justice. Since the Secretary of State for Scotland's appointment on 30 May 2010, no single tender contracts have been awarded directly by the Scotland Office.

CABINET OFFICE

Community Development

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what measures he uses to measure the well-being of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* communities. [35813]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what measures are used to measure the well being of (a) individuals and (b) communities. 035813

There are no regular, official measures of well-being. However, on 25 November 2010 the National Statistician launched a debate on the measurement of national well-being and announced plans to include questions on subjective well-being—how people assess their own well-being—in ONS surveys.

This is the first stage in the development of wider measures, to supplement GDP and other measures of economic welfare. The aim is that these new measures will cover the quality of life of people in the UK, environmental and sustainability issues, as well as the economic performance of the country.

We want as many people as possible to take part in the debate in a variety of ways, including at events we are organising around the country. Details can be found on our website at:

www.ons.gov.uk/well-being

by emailing the National Well-being Programme at:

nationalwell-being@ons.gsi.gov.uk

or by writing or telephoning.

Former Prime Ministers: Allowances

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much in public duty costs allowance has been paid to former Prime Ministers in each of the last five years. [34218]

Mr Maude: The total amount reimbursed each year, on the public duties costs allowance is:

	Total expenditure (£)
2005-06	294,546
2006-07	244,638
2007-08	174,551
2008-09	190,888
2009-10	207,624

Urenco: Mutual Societies

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will consider the merits of Urenco Ltd UK becoming an employee mutual rather than being sold to an overseas buyer. [36013]

Charles Hendry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are currently assessing their options with regard to the UK's one-third stake in Urenco. No decisions have yet been taken and any change in the present ownership arrangements will be dependent upon our being satisfied that adequate protections will remain in place in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and safety and security, while also securing value for money for the tax payer.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Private Members' Bills

Mr Offord: To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations he has received on the consideration of Private Members' Bills on days other than Fridays. [35618]

Sir George Young: I have received representations from hon. Members on this issue during Business Questions and Oral Questions to the Leader of the House of Commons.

I would be happy to meet my hon. Friend to discuss this issue.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35393]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: From May 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) has appointed two women and three men to public duties.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35417]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since May 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) has made five public appointments. DFID has appointed:

one new non-executive director and reappointed one non-executive director. Post holders are entitled to £15,000 per annum and an additional £5,000 for the non-executive director who chairs DFID's Audit Committee;

one chief commissioner to the Independent Commission for Aid Impact, entitled to £600 per day for approximately 45 days per annum; and two replacement commissioners to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, DFID's non-departmental public body. The Commission meet up to three times per year and commissioners are entitled to receive up to £250 per meeting to cover expenses.

Nigeria: Education

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria in increasing the accountability of the Nigerian Government to its citizens through *(a)* working with local government officials and *(b)* working with civil society organisations; and if he will make a statement. [35259]

Mr O'Brien: The Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN) is subject to regular scrutiny, and the last major review took place in May 2010. This provided strong evidence that the programme is increasing the accountability of the Nigerian Government to its citizens. ESSPIN works closely with another programme which is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID)—the State Accountability and Voice Programme (SAVI)—to identify, train and support civil society organisations to mobilise communities and encourage greater government accountability. ESSPIN works with local government officials to establish school based management committees, which make schools, teachers and local officials more accountable to the local community.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department supports in respect of skills development for young people in Nigeria; and if he will make a statement. [35260]

Mr O'Brien: The Department of International Development (DFID) has a number of programmes aimed at increasing economic growth, employment and incomes for poor people in various industrial and agricultural sectors in Nigeria. Two programmes under design, in meat and leather, and in construction, are likely to address lack of skills in the labour force, especially amongst youth and the unemployed. These proposals are under review with experts and providers of vocational training services.

DFID is also exploring a new skills programme that will build on this work, and expand it to more sectors of the economy, with a particular focus on women and girls.

Overseas Aid

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will estimate the change in monetary terms in the level of the UK's official development assistance (ODA) in each year to 2014 if ODA increased incrementally to *(a)* 0.61% of gross national income (GNI) in 2011, *(b)* 0.65% of GNI in 2012 and *(c)* 0.7% of GNI in 2013. [36059]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Government are committed to spend 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance (ODA) from 2013 in line with the UK's commitments to help the very poorest in the world. We will enshrine this commitment in law.

ODA projections for each year to 2014 were laid out in the 2010 spending review based on GNI projections provided by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR).

Spending review 2010

	2010	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
ODA:GNI (percentage)	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.70	0.70
ODA (£ billion)	8.4	8.7	9.1	12.0	12.6

HEALTH

StartHere

16. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the potential of StartHere to contribute to savings in the NHS. [35647]

Mr Simon Burns: We have been supporting StartHere through NHS Choices. We are now reviewing the benefits of this joint working. That will help us understand the potential contributions to savings.

NHS Reorganisation

18. **Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations have indicated to him their support for plans for the internal reorganisation of the NHS. [35649]

Paul Burstow: Many organisations have indicated their support for the principles of our national health service reforms including:

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges;
NHS Confederation;
The Health Foundation;
Patient's Association;
The King's Fund;
Carers UK;
Cancer Research UK;
Royal College of Surgeons;
Royal College of Nursing;
Royal College of GPs;
Royal College of Physicians;
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health;
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists;
Royal College of Ophthalmologists;
The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists;
The Nuffield Trust;
The British Dental Association;
New Local Government Network;
Core Cities Chief Executives Network;
Allied Health Professionals Federation;
British Psychological Society;
College of Optometrists;
The Queen's Nursing Institute;
Foundation Trust Network;
The UK Public Health Association;
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health;

British Dental Association;
Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists;
College of Emergency Medicine;
Dental Schools Council;
British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy;
The Renal Association;
The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy;
College of Occupational Therapists;
The College of Paramedics;
British Association of Social Workers;
Neurological Alliance;
National Clinical Homecare Association;
The Association of UK University Hospitals;
Age UK;
Terence Higgins Trust;
Children's Hospices UK;
Citizens Advice Bureau;
British Liver Trust;
Turning Point;
Genetic Alliance UK;
Centre for Mental Health;
Alzheimer's Society;
The Prostate Cancer Charity;
Breast Cancer Care;
RNIB;
Diabetes UK; and
The MS Society

to name but a few.

GP Commissioning

19. **Emma Reynolds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he undertook prior to publication of his proposals for GP commissioning. [35650]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" was published in July last year, and set out our long-term vision for the national health service. Shortly after, we set out further details of our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practices. In December, we published our response to the consultation, setting out our plans in further detail.

Alternative Medicine: Regulation

20. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the statutory regulation of herbal medicine, acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine; and if he will make a statement. [35651]

Anne Milton: The transitional period under the 2004 Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (THMP) will end on 30 April 2011.

From this date, all manufactured herbal medicines placed on the market must have either a traditional herbal registration (THR) or a marketing authorisation (MA).

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has identified the possibility of creating a national regulatory scheme allowing authorised herbal practitioners to continue to commission unlicensed manufactured herbal medicines after 30 April 2011.

When practitioners legally hold stock at 30 April 2011, they will not be required to dispose of these existing stocks.

We are currently in discussion with the devolved administrations, the Health Professions Council and the Complementary and Natural Healthcare Council about the feasibility of a statutory register and we expect to make an announcement shortly.

I can assure you that this Government are treating this issue as a priority.

Prescription Drugs

21. **Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential effects on the variation in the cost of prescription drugs of the proposals in the Health White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [35652]

Mr Lansley: The White Paper sets out our intention that, from 2014, new medicines subject to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme should have a price reflective of their value. For drugs dispensed via pharmacies, we will ensure that there are fair, but not excessive, margins on dispensing.

Cancer Patients: Outcomes

22. **Mr Brine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve outcomes for cancer patients. [35653]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Strategy that we published earlier this month sets out a range of actions to improve outcomes for cancer patients. Earlier diagnosis is crucial to improving outcomes and we have set out plans to deliver this, in particular through improving general practitioner access to diagnostic tests, supporting symptom awareness initiatives and extending cancer screening programmes. We are also improving access to treatment and support for survivors.

Interim Cancer Drugs Fund

23. **Sajid Javid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the operation of the interim cancer drugs fund; and if he will make a statement. [35654]

Paul Burstow: We have received representations from hon. Members, noble Lords, and members of the public on how the interim arrangements for cancer drugs funding are operating. This includes a number welcoming the additional support we are giving to cancer patients in need.

Elective Surgery

24. **Mrs Glindon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many elective surgical procedures have been *(a)* postponed and *(b)* cancelled since 1 October 2010. [35655]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not collect data on postponements or total cancelled elective operations. However, the Department publishes data on how many elective operations were cancelled for non-clinical reasons on the day of admission or of operation.

Latest published data show that there were 13,015 such cancellations during the period July to September 2010 compared with 13,547 during the same period in 2009, under the previous Administration.

Obesity

25. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of obesity; and if he will make a statement. [35656]

Anne Milton: This Government have set out an ambitious new public health strategy in "Healthy Lives, Healthy People". Its radical reforms put health and wellbeing at the centre of all we do.

We will be publishing a document on obesity in the spring that will set out how obesity will be tackled in the new public health and national health service systems, and the role of key partners.

The role of Government is to bring together key partners to help and support people to make healthier choices. We cannot tackle obesity alone—it is an issue for society as a whole. We all have a role to play.

We want people to know that they can change their lifestyle and in doing so they can make a difference to their health.

Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs: Misuse

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 16 to 19 and *(b)* 20 to 24 were registered (i) alcoholics and (ii) drug addicts in each year for which figures are available. [35803]

Anne Milton: There is no scheme or requirement for registration by alcoholics or drug addicts with the national health service.

The adult psychiatric morbidity survey, 'Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007' (APMS), was published in January 2009, covering adults living in private households in England. It includes information on the prevalence of alcohol use and dependence by age, sex, region and other factors for 2000 and 2007. Estimates of the number and percentage of alcohol dependent individuals aged 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 are in the following table. Estimates for other years are not available.

Estimate of the number and percentage of alcohol dependent[1] individuals aged 16 to 19 and 20 to 24, 2000 and 2007

Age (years):	16- 19		20-24	
	Estimated number	Estimated percentage	Estimated number	Estimated percentage
2000	120,000	5	240,000	8
2007	130,000	5	290,000	8

[1] Scoring 16 or more on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)

Data on drug treatment, including that for individuals with a drug dependency problem, are collected by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). NDTMS data on the number of 18 to 24-year-olds in treatment for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 are given in the following table.

Number of 18 to 24-year-olds in treatment for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10

	Number
2005-06	32,948
2006-07	32,981
2007-08	31,239
2008-09	30,210
2009-10	27,071

In December 2010 the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse published 'Substance misuse among young people: the data for 2009-10', which included data on the number of young people aged 18 and under accessing drug treatment services. Data on young people accessing treatment services are available for the years 2005-06 to 2009-10 and are given in the following table.

Number of young people accessing drug treatment services by age and year

Age	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
16 to 17	4,347	5,315	5,987	6,133	5,823
17 to 18	4,780	6,019	6,624	6,663	6,701

The 'National and Regional Estimates of the Prevalence of Opiate and/or Crack Cocaine Use 2008-09' report provides data on opiate and/or crack cocaine use for the years 2006-07 and 2008-09. Estimates on opiate and/or crack cocaine use for those aged 15 to 24 are given in the following table.

Estimates on opiate and/or crack cocaine use for those aged 15 to 24 for 2006-07 and 2008-09

	Estimate of opiate and/or crack cocaine use by 15 to 24-year-olds
2006-07	60,672
2008-09	58,618

Blood: Contamination

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the difference is in the level of compensation payments for those affected by contaminated blood and blood products *(a)* in the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* in the UK under the settlement he announced on 10 January 2011; and for what reasons he considers that a difference in such levels is appropriate. [35930]

Mr Lansley: It is not possible to make meaningful comparisons between the level of compensation made to individuals in the Republic of Ireland and the level of ex-gratia payments made to individuals here in the United Kingdom, because the two systems are completely different. In the Republic of Ireland, lump sum payments are made, the size of which varies according to the circumstances of the individual claimant. Here in the UK, there is a system of lump sum, annual, and discretionary ex-gratia payments. The recurrent annual payments will be made over the lifetime of the infected individual, so it is impossible to ascertain how much individual patients might receive in future.

As I explained to the House on 10 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 33-42, the circumstances in the Republic of Ireland are unique to them, in that the Irish Government chose to establish an independent Compensation Tribunal to determine the quantum of payments by reference to Irish principles of law governing the calculation of damages. In consequence, the basic awards made in Ireland (leaving aside exemplary or aggravated damages) are compensatory in nature but are paid without proof of negligence in any given case. The article in *The Irish Times* on 5 August 1997, which has already been placed in the Library on 14 October 2010, demonstrates that there is a clear indication of an acceptance by the Irish Government that in many, if not all cases, the claimants were likely to have a good cause of action because the Irish Attorney General advised that the Irish Blood Transfusion Service Board (for which the Irish Government are responsible) would be found guilty of negligence.

In my remarks to the House on 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 33-42, I referred to the question of liability in relation to the Republic of Ireland. For the avoidance of doubt, I am aware that no liability was formally accepted by the Government of the Republic of Ireland, nor was such a determination made by a court. My response to questions highlighted that, in view of the acknowledgement of mistakes made by the Irish Blood Transfusion Service Board, the nature of the payments in Ireland were consistent with a finding of liability leading to compensation as was set out in that article. The approach we have taken in the UK is therefore distinct and different, and is ex gratia in nature. Our payments are not equivalent to those that would be made on the basis of legal liability.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have applied for funding from the Cancer Drugs Fund *(a)* in total, *(b)* by primary care trust and *(c)* by constituency to date; [35500]

(2) how many people have received funding from the Cancer Drugs Fund to date; [35501]

(3) how many people have applied for funding for selective internal radiation therapy from the Cancer Drugs Fund to date; [35502]

(4) how many people have received funding for selective internal radiation therapy from the Cancer Drugs Fund to date; [35503]

(5) for what reasons selective internal radiation therapy has been rejected by strategic health authorities. [35505]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Drugs Fund does not take effect until April 2011. Under the arrangements for the additional £50 million made available to the national health service for additional cancer drugs on an interim basis in this financial year, up to 10 January 2011, strategic health authorities had received around one thousand applications for funding. Of these, applications for over 750 patients had been agreed with most of the remaining applications under consideration.

We do not hold a breakdown of these applications by primary care trust or constituency, or the number of applications made for funding of selective internal radiation therapy.

Decisions on which cancer drugs are funded from the additional £50 million are a matter for regional clinically-led panels based on the advice of cancer specialists. We expect these decisions to be informed by the guidance issued by the Department to strategic health authorities in July 2010, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This guidance specifies that the primary focus of the funding is on improving access to cancer drugs, which may include radiopharmaceuticals.

We have consulted on our plans for the design of the Cancer Drugs Fund and our consultation closed on 19 January. Decisions on the implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund will be taken once the responses to the consultation have been considered.

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria strategic health authorities use to determine funding for the Interim Cancer Drugs Fund. [35504]

Paul Burstow: Decisions on the use of the additional £50 million made available to the national health service in this financial year are a matter for regional clinically-led panels based on the advice of cancer specialists. We expect these decisions to be informed by the guidance issued by the Department to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in July 2010, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Details of the arrangements and criteria that SHAs have in place for the distribution of this funding are available on their websites as follows:

SHA	*Website*
NHS South East Coast	www.southeastcoast.nhs.uk/For%20the%20Public/Interim-drug-fund.htm
NHS South Central	www.southcentral.nhs.uk/30/09/2010/nhs-south-central-additional-cancer-drug-funding/
NHS South West	www.southwest.nhs.uk/interim_cancer_drugs_fund.html
NHS Yorkshire and the Humber	www.yorksandhumber.nhs.uk/what_we_do/improving_patient_care_and_service_quality/yorkshire_and_the_humber_interim_cancer_drugs_fund
NHS East Midlands	www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/interim-cancer-drug-fund/
NHS West Midlands	www.westmidlands.nhs.uk/WhatWeDo/WestMidlandsCancerDrugFund.aspx
NHS London	www.london.nhs.uk/news-and-health-issues/press-releases/latest-press-releases/new-76m-cancer-drugs-fund-available-for-patients-in-london
NHS North East	www.northeast.nhs.uk/news-centre/news-releases/release/?id=157
NHS East of England	www.eoe.nhs.uk/page.php?page_id=1247
NHS North West	www.nwcancerdrugsfund.nhs.uk/

Community Services

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to shorten or simplify the standard NHS Contract for Community Services. [35464]

Mr Simon Burns: In line with the planned revision for the NHS Standard Contracts, the 2011-12 NHS Standard Contract for Community Services is undergoing a review with the aim to remove any element that is dealt with by regulatory and other organisations and the simplification of clauses and wording following feedback received from a wide range of provider and commissioner stakeholders.

Cot Deaths

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has put in place to prevent deaths of young people from sudden death syndrome. [33445]

Mr Simon Burns: In March 2005, the national service framework for coronary heart disease was extended with a new chapter that provides models of care and markers of quality for arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death.

The Department works closely with national health service and charitable organisations such as Cardiac Risk in the Young and British Heart Foundation in developing services aimed at identifying people who are at risk and assessing them and their families to reduce their chances of dying from an arrhythmic condition. It has also worked with these organisations to ensure that systems are in place for those diagnosed with a potentially life threatening condition, and their families, to produce appropriate counselling, advice information and psychological support.

The Department supported formation of the UK Cardiac Pathology Network (UKCPN) in order to provide local coroners with an expert cardiac pathology service and to promote best pathological practice in sudden death cases. A national database on sudden arrhythmic death was launched in November 2008 funded by the Department allowing UKCPN pathologists to record information on cases referred to them.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35398]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 1 May 2010, the Secretary of State for Health has appointed one man and one woman to a public appointment.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35420]

Mr Simon Burns: Since the Secretary of State for Health's appointment, he has appointed the Chair of the Care Quality Commission who is remunerated at £60,000.

Genito-urinary Medical Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what modelling his Department has undertaken to estimate the annual cost of providing genito-urinary medical services; what recent assessment he has made of the cost of such services; and if he will make a statement. [35439]

Anne Milton: The Department has not undertaken any specific modelling to estimate the annual cost of providing genito-urinary medical services.

In 2009-10 it is estimated that England-level gross expenditure on genito-urinary medical services was £4.63 billion. The following table provides an estimated breakdown of this expenditure.

	£ billion
Genital tract problems	1.08
Renal problems	1.64
Sexually transmitted infections	0.29
Problems of genito-urinary system (other)	1.61
Total	4.63

Additionally, the estimated expenditure on HIV and AIDS in 2009-10 was £0.76 billion.

Source:

Expenditure figures above are from estimated England level programme budgeting data, which are calculated using primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority programme budgeting returns and Department of Health resource accounts data. Figures will include an estimation of special health authority expenditure. The full table is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Programmebudgeting/DH_075743#_5

In addition, through a separate exercise of the annual reference cost collection, the Department collects information on the cost to national health service providers (NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and PCT provider arms) of providing a defined service in a given financial year.

The following table contains total reported cost information from the 2009-10 reference costs (the most recent year for which data have been published) for collection categories which relate explicitly to genito-urinary medical services.

Total reported cost of genitourinary medical services in 2009-10[1]

Collection category	*£ million*
Out-patient attendances[2]	291.7
Other settings[3, 4]	11.0

[1] The total reported cost figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

[2] The out-patient attendance figure relates to costs reported against Service Code 360 (Genito-Urinary Medicine).

[3] The 'other settings' figure includes the cost of providing genito-urinary medical services in the following settings—elective, non-elective, day case, out-patient procedure and regular day/night admissions—as reported against three Healthcare Resource Groups (HRGs):

(a) LB20A (Infection and Mechanical Problems Related to Genito-Urinary Prostheses, Implants and Grafts with complications/comorbidities)

(b) LB20B (Infection and Mechanical Problems Related to Genito-Urinary Prostheses, Implants and Grafts without complications/comorbidities)

(c) WA10Z (Other infections (Genito Urinary Medicine)

[4] As it is possible that some GUM services may have been provided alongside other treatments, this activity will have mapped to other HRGs which do not relate explicitly to GUM services. It is not possible to separately identify the costs associated with GUM services that may have mapped to other HRGs.

Source:

Figures in the table are taken from schedule 4 (NHS trusts and PCTs combined) of the national schedules of reference costs for the financial year 2009-10, available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/NHScostingmanual/index.htm

These figures do not reflect the cost to PCTs of commissioning GUM medical services, as these costs are not covered by the reference costs collection.

Health: Telephone Services

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines are in place on the use of 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers by *(a)* GP surgeries, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* dental practices. [33818]

Mr Simon Burns: Following a public consultation on the future use of 0844 and 0845 numbers in the national health service, the Department announced on 14 September 2009, that it would be prohibiting the use of telephone numbers which charged the patient more than the equivalent cost of calling a geographical number. The Department issued guidance and directions to general practitioner practices and NHS bodies, including hospitals, which came into force on 21 December 2010.

There are no regulations or guidelines in place regarding the use of 0844 or 0845 numbers in dental practices.

Hearing Aids

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time is for a patient to receive a hearing aid in *(a)* Wirral primary care trust, *(b)* primary care trusts in the North West and *(c)* England. [35297]

Paul Burstow: The average (median) waiting time for a completed Direct Access audiology pathway in November 2010 for:

(a) Wirral Primary Care Trust was 6.0 weeks

(b) North West SHA was 4.7 weeks

(c) England was 4.8 weeks

The Department collects data on waiting times for Direct Access audiology pathways, from general practitioner referral to first definitive treatment, which includes the fitting of a hearing aid and other types of treatment. This is the latest available data published on 20 January 2011.

Hospital Beds

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many critical care beds are available in *(a)* Wirral primary care trust, *(b)* primary care trusts in the North West and *(c)* England. [35299]

Mr Simon Burns: There are 18 critical care beds available at Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Information on the number of critical care beds is collected at the level of hospital trusts, not primary care trusts. There are 566 critical care beds in North West strategic health authority.

There are 3,662 critical care beds in England.

KH03a data are the official and validated source for information on the number of open and staffed critical care beds in England. KH03a data are published biannually by the Department and the latest available data set out the position at 15 July 2010. The information includes all data and amendments received up to 25 August 2010.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure hospitals observe its guidance on car park charges. [35236]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service organisations are responsible locally for their own policy on car parking, taking into account operational circumstances and community interests. We have made clear that local policies should include fair concessions for all patients whose healthcare needs require extended or frequent access to hospital. Patients on low incomes are entitled to recover travel costs, including car parking charges, under the Hospital Travel Costs scheme.

The Department does not directly monitor the NHS to ensure that local polices provide fair concessions to patients and the local public. NHS trust boards should be held to account by their local communities including foundation trust members and other public groups.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts are funding *(a)* one cycle, *(b)* two cycles and *(c)* three cycles of in vitro fertilisation; and how many include frozen embryo transfers as part of each cycle; [35308]

(2) what his policy is on action to be taken should a primary care trust *(a)* suspend and *(b)* restrict funding for fertility services in its area. [35309]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are well aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioners (GPs) commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers.

The NHS deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to PCT commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight the importance that those involved in commissioning fertility services have regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

A copy of this communication has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123405.pdf

Information on the number of IVF treatment cycles funded by the national health service and the number of these cycles that include frozen embryo transfers as part of each is not collected centrally.

Influenza: North West England

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* the North West have died from influenza since October 2010; how many such cases involved the H1N1 strain of the virus; and what consideration his Department has given to publishing a regional or sub-regional breakdown of deaths from influenza. [36156]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Department on the number of deaths associated with influenza.

The HPA is unable to provide regional or sub-regional data on deaths from influenza.

The HPA aims to publish as much information on deaths as is useful for understanding the impact and epidemiology of influenza, while recognising its duty of confidentiality towards individual patients and their families.

As at 19 January, the HPA reported 254 influenza-related deaths in the United Kingdom since September. Of the 214 cases with information on the type of influenza infection, 195 deaths (91%) were associated with H1N1 virus.

Injuries: Dogs

Gavin Williamson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the level of expenditure by the NHS on treating victims of dog attacks in the latest year for which figures are available. [35694]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected centrally on the total number of dog bite injuries treated by the national health service.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations he has undertaken on increasing the limit on reimbursement for egg donors. [35667]

Anne Milton: The reimbursement of egg donors is a matter for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) as set out by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 and Directions. The HFEA launched a consultation on egg and sperm donation on 17 January 2011, which includes the compensation of donors. Details of the consultation can be found on the HFEA website at:

www.hfea.gov.uk/5605.html

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking in response to recent announcements by primary care trusts that they plan to suspend or restrict funding for IVF services; and if he will make a statement. [35678]

Anne Milton: The NHS deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight the importance that those involved in commissioning fertility services have regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

A copy of this communication has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123405.pdf

MMR Vaccine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what facilities are available for infants to have single vaccines for mumps, measles and rubella instead of the MMR Vaccine. [35843]

Anne Milton: The national health service provides routine childhood vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella using the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine as this protects against all three diseases. The Department does not recommend single vaccines for measles, mumps or rubella for NHS use because there is no evidence that they are more effective or safer than the MMR vaccine. Having single vaccines leaves children at risk of catching measles, mumps or rubella in the gaps between the vaccinations.

Single measles, mumps and rubella vaccines are not licensed for use in the United Kingdom. Such unlicensed vaccines are imported under an exemption to the need for a Marketing Authorisation ("product licence") for the special needs of individual patients for use on the direct personal responsibility of the prescriber.

NHS

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposed increase in competition within the NHS will include provision of services by private companies; who will be responsible for validating the medical and clinical expertise of such companies; and if he will make a statement. [35154]

Mr Simon Burns: Under our proposals, patients and commissioners will have an increasing choice of who provides health services. Our aim is that patients can be treated by those providers best placed to meet their needs. Providers from all sectors, including national health service trusts and foundation trusts, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and the independent sector, will be eligible—as at present—to have a role in providing those NHS services.

Primary care trusts as the current commissioners of NHS services are responsible for undertaking the necessary rigorous due diligence on providers prior to signing a contract for the provision of NHS clinical services. Arrangements for contracts with general practitioner (GP) consortiums for clinical services have yet to be determined, as the creation of GP consortiums is subject to parliamentary approval. In future, again subject to parliamentary approval of its proposed new roles, Monitor will develop and agree with the Secretary of State criteria for determining who constitutes a 'fit person' for the purposes of contracting for NHS-funded clinical services. The Care Quality Commission will continue to play an important role in assuring quality and patient safety.

NHS: Finance

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the expected level of savings in the cost of management and administration following the proposed abolition of the *(a)* West Sussex Primary Care Trust and *(b)* South East Coast Strategic Health Authority. [35349]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr Lansley), has not made an estimate of the level of savings in the cost of management and administration from the abolition of the West Sussex Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the South East Coast Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

Reductions in the cost of administration across the health system will deliver annual savings of £1.7 billion (in today's prices) by 2014-15. This represents a one third reduction in real terms and includes the impact of abolishing PCTs and SHAs, as well as savings in the Department and its arm's length bodies.

The trajectory and SHA-level breakdown of savings in the national health service will be set out shortly in detailed financial planning guidance for the NHS. It will be for SHAs to determine how the target reduction is managed across their regions.

NHS: Greater London

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital managers were employed in *(a)* Edgware Community Hospital, *(b)* Barnet Primary Care Trust and *(c)* the NHS in Hendon constituency in each of the last five years. [35550]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows hospital and community health non medical staff in each specified national health service hospital and community health service organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year.

NHS hospital and community health services: non-medical staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year

headcount

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	4,061	4,061	3,990	4,067	4,260
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,182	2,210	2,258	2,263	2,265
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,715	1,692	1,750	1,777	1,781
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	467	518	508	486	484
Support to clinical staff	1,528	1,455	1,376	1,423	1,577
Support to doctors and nursing staff	1,253	1,152	1,102	1,119	1,227
Support to ST&T staff	275	303	274	304	350
NHS infrastructure support	351	396	356	381	418
Central functions	258	300	250	269	286
Hotel, property and estates	6	7	13	15	19
Senior managers	27	26	30	31	32
Managers	60	63	63	66	81
Barnet PCT	1,380	1,278	1,334	1,311	1,310
Professionally qualified clinical staff	616	583	655	628	623
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	452	389	437	418	417
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	164	194	218	210	206
Support to clinical staff	446	374	368	375	368
Support to doctors and nursing staff	378	332	314	325	319
Support to ST&T staff	54	29	41	41	40
Support to ambulance staff	14	13	13	9	9
NHS infrastructure support	318	321	311	308	319
Central functions	130	187	159	149	156
Hotel, property and estates	84	58	58	52	51
Senior managers	84	67	83	86	84
Managers	20	9	11	21	28
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	5,015	4,741	4,692	4,641	4,951
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,868	2,837	2,750	2,762	2,881
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,070	2,035	1,942	1,910	1,976
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	798	802	808	852	905
Support to clinical staff	1,131	1,003	1,023	1,061	1,215
Support to doctors and nursing staff	846	722	733	764	918
Support to ST&T staff	285	281	290	297	297
NHS infrastructure support	1,016	901	919	818	855
Central functions	267	243	261	265	325
Hotel, property and estates	635	553	550	444	423
Senior managers	52	31	38	39	31
Managers	62	74	70	70	76
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	958	926	955	1,046	1,284
Professionally qualified clinical staff	555	542	571	681	880
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	402	385	408	513	707
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	153	157	163	168	173
Support to clinical staff	179	171	148	140	141

NHS hospital and community health services: non-medical staff in each specified organisation by main staff group as at 30 September each year

headcount

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Support to doctors and nursing staff	155	150	131	118	122
Support to ST&T staff	23	20	17	22	19
Support to ambulance staff	1	1	0	0	0
NHS infrastructure support	224	213	236	225	263
Central functions	161	152	178	171	196
Hotel, property and estates	20	19	19	19	20
Senior managers	30	34	32	29	38
Managers	13	8	7	6	9

Note:
It is impossible to isolate figures for individual hospitals from the census data. The data are collected at organisation level and the figures for smaller sites are aggregated prior to submission. The organisations shown are those that cover the Hendon parliamentary constituency.
Data Quality:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census

Public Lavatories: Disabled Facilities

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will encourage operators of retail stores to provide hand towels in disabled toilet facilities in retail outlets. [36049]

Paul Burstow: The Department is not responsible for the maintenance of disabled toilet facilities in retail outlets and does not issue guidance on the topic.

Waiting Lists: Accident and Emergency Departments

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time to be seen is for accident and emergency treatment in *(a)* Wirral Primary Care Trust, *(b)* primary care trusts in the North West and *(c)* England. [35302]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out the mean and median time spent between arrival and treatment in accident and emergency (A&E) departments in Wirral primary care trust (PCT), each of the other main providers of treatment in the North West, and England in 2009-10.

Provider code	*A&E main provider of treatment*	*Mean duration to treatment (minutes)*	*Median duration to treatment (minutes)*
5NK	Wirral PCT	81.4	58
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	76.2	59
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	51.3	37
5HP	Blackpool PCT	84.8	53
5HQ	Bolton PCT	65.8	58
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	42.3	22
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	62.5	51
5NE	Cumbria Teaching PCT	55.3	39
5J4	Knowsley PCT	212.8	27
5NL	Liverpool PCT	90.5	76
5NT	Manchester PCT	75.4	60
5F5	Salford PCT	67.2	56
5NJ	Sefton PCT	57.5	44
5F7	Stockport PCT	56.9	48
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	9.0	0
5NR	Trafford PCT	54.1	39
5J2	Warrington PCT	73.8	60
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	0.2	0
England	England	102.0	55

Notes:
1. These data cover attendances at all types of A&E departments, including major A&E departments, single specialty A&E departments, walk-in centres and minor injuries units.
2. The duration to treatment refers to the time from arrival at A&E to the time that a treatment intervention takes place during an A&E attendance.
3. A&E HES are the only source of nationally available data which contain information on the time spent in A&E from arrival to treatment. Official information on the total time spent in A&E is collected as part of the Department of Health's Quarterly Monitoring of A&E (QMAE) data collection.
4. Some shortcomings remain with the quality and coverage of A&E HES data, and variation in the time to treatment across trusts may reflect varying data quality and coverage as well as variation in genuine activity. For example, in some cases unusually short or long times to treatment in A&E are reported due to default times being recorded instead of the actual time of treatment. These data issues will have a larger effect on the mean, rather than the median, time in A&E.
5. The A&E HES publications addresses some of the key data quality and coverage issues. These are available on HESonline:
www.hesonline.nhs.uk
Source:
A&E Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Student Numbers

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults in England are in full-time further education; and what proportion are aged between 19 and 24 years. [35698]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the total number of adults participating in Further Education (Learner Responsive) in the 2008/09 academic year, and the number and proportion that were studying full-time.

There were 157,700 adults studying in full-time further education in 2008/09. Of these, 57% were aged between 19 and 24 years old.

Table 1: Further education (learner responsive) full-time participation by age, 2008-09

Age	*Total FE participation*	*Total FE participation (percentage)*	*FE full-time participation*	*FE full-time Percentage*
19-24	324,200	21	89,700	57
25+	1,179,800	78	68,000	43
Total(19+)	1,511,000	100	157,700	100

Notes:

1. These data do not include participation in apprenticeships, train to gain, adult safeguarded learning or higher education. Further education provision in this table covers the learner responsive funding stream only. Further education/learner responsive provision includes general further education colleges including tertiary, sixth form colleges—agricultural and horticultural colleges and art and design colleges, specialist colleges and external institutions.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages are calculated on pre-rounded data.
3. Age is based on age as of the 31 August 2008.
4. The total FE participation figure includes a small number of learners with an unknown age. Learners aged under 19 are not included in the above figures.
5. Full-time learners are defined as those learners studying a programme of a minimum of 450 guided learning hours in an academic year.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on further education participation is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 16 November 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Near final data for further education participation and achievement for 2009/10 will be published in a Statistical First Release published on 27 January, which will also be available at the link above.

Apprentices

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage large companies to offer apprenticeships. [34950]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 21 January 2011]*: The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) delivers a dedicated service to large multi-site national employers through the National Employer Service, offering free, expert advice and support to recruit and develop apprentices. Support is also available to larger employers through the NAS regional teams.

NAS is focusing its current marketing campaign on medium and large employers, contacting thousands of large private and public sector employers to promote the benefits of apprenticeships to their business.

Since its launch in April 2009, NAS has increased the number of apprentices it supports (by 25% year-on-year) in large national employers who directly deliver high quality apprenticeship programmes, such as British Telecom, BAE Systems and, more recently, McDonalds; as well as in those who are working through their preferred training provider or college, such as Morrisons and the BBC.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship places he expects to be available in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2013-14; and in each such year, how many apprenticeship places he expects to be taken up by those aged (i) 16-18, (ii) 19-24, (iii) 25-30 and (iv) over 30 years old. [35257]

Mr Hayes: The apprenticeships programme is a demand-led programme for young people and adults. The Government funds apprenticeship training, in full for 16 to 19-year-olds and in part for adults, but relies on employers and providers to work together to offer sufficient opportunities, in the context of the greater freedoms and flexibilities that we have created in the further education system. Therefore, the Government does not plan apprenticeship places but provides funding and forecasts the number of places that may be afforded as a result.

We have recently set out indicative forecasts of apprenticeships in documents published by the Young People's Learning Agency and BIS.

For 16 to 19-year-olds, the YPLA document "16 to 19 Funding Statement", published in December, states that we plan to have 131,200 apprentice starts in 2010/11 and 133,500 in 2011/12.

The BIS documents "Skills for Sustainable Growth" and "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" set out the abolition of central targets and increased freedom and flexibility for further education colleges and training organisations to respond effectively to the needs of employers, learners and their communities. It will be for individual colleges and training organisations, working directly with their local partners, to determine the offer that best meets the needs of their communities.

From the 2011/12 academic year, there will be a single Adult Skills Budget, with earmarked delivery for apprenticeships. As part of its allocations process later this year, the Skills Funding Agency will set out a minimum expectation of apprenticeships delivery. Further education colleges and training organisations will be able to use their single Adult Skills Budget allocation to expand apprenticeships. Meanwhile, any diversion of funding away from apprenticeships will be agreed with the agency.

In this context, "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" offers an indicative forecast for apprenticeship learner numbers, including apprentices expected to continue learning from the previous year. It does not provide a direct comparison in starts for adult (19+) apprentices and does not differentiate by age band. Officials have converted the learner numbers to starts for comparison, so the indicative forecast is for 220,900 adult (19+) starts in 2010/11 and 227,100 in 2011/12.

We have not published forecast start figures beyond 2011/12.

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many training places were available under *(a)* Train to Gain and *(b)* apprenticeships in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10. [35258]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of Train to Gain and apprenticeship starts in England from the 2006/07 to 2008/09 academic year, the latest year for which final data are available.

As announced in a letter from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), to the Skills Funding Agency chief executive in June 2010, Train to Gain will be abolished from the 2011/12 academic year. It will be replaced by a new workplace training programme, aimed at supporting smaller employers.

Table 1: Train to Gain and Apprenticeship Starts, 2006/07 to 2008/09

Academic year	*Train to Gain starts*	*Apprenticeship starts*
2006/07	206,300	184,400
2007/08	346,200	224,800
2008/09	[1]817,400	239,900

[1] Train to Gain figures for 2008/09 are not comparable with earlier years as in 2008/09 NVQs delivered in the workplace previously funded by FE are now funded by Train to Gain. There were 181,000 starts in NVQs delivered in the workplace in 2007/08.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Train to Gain and apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 16 November 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Final data for Train to Gain and apprenticeships for 2009/10 will be published in a Statistical First Release published on 27 January 2011 which will also be available at the link above.

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults in England are on apprenticeships; and what proportion are aged between 19 and 24 years. [35697]

Mr Hayes: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts in England by age for the 2008/09 academic year, the latest year for which final data are available.

Table 1: Apprenticeship programme starts by age, 2008/09

Age	*Apprenticeship starts*	*Percentage*
19-24	84,700	60
25+	55,900	40
Total (19+)	140,600	100

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Percentages are calculated on pre-rounded data.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.
3. Figures include learners aged 19 and over only. Learners aged under 19 are not included in the above figures.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 16 November 2010:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Final 2009/10 data for apprenticeships will be published in a Statistical First Release published on 27 January, which will also be available at the link above.

Banks: Loans

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of bank lending available to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* large companies in each region in each quarter since January 2006; and what progress has been made on the major loan guarantee scheme and the use of net lending targets for the nationalised banks proposed in the coalition agreement. [35506]

Mr Prisk: Data on bank lending to all companies, including SMEs and large companies, are collected and analysed by the Bank of England. Quarterly updates are made available through the Bank of England's 'Trends in Lending' publication.

Current data show that in Q3 of 2010, £24.4 billion gross were lent to UK businesses (including both SMEs and large companies). October 'Trends in Lending' has SME lending statistics. More information is available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending2010.htm

With regard to the loan guarantee scheme proposed in the coalition agreement, the Government consulted on this and other issues last summer ('Financing a private sector recovery') and announced in their response to the consultation ('Backing Small Business') that the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, which provides loan guarantee support to SMEs without collateral or financial track record and has already provided over £1.3 billion of loans to SMEs, would be extended to 2014-15, benefiting around 6,000 viable SMEs next year alone and would, subject to demand, be worth over £2 billion in total over the next four years.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated on 11 January, we are working with the banks to ensure that they make a greater contribution to lending. We will provide more detail to the House when the negotiations have been finalised.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35401]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has appointed six women and 21 men to the boards of our public bodies.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35423]

Mr Davey: Details of the appointments made and remuneration are detailed in the following table:

Body	*Appointee*	*Remuneration*
ACAS	Three members	£1,695 annual honorarium, plus £172 for each day they work on council business
Competition Commission	Deputy chair	£102,640 pa
Consumer Focus	Interim chair	£48,000 pa
Industrial Development Advisory Board	Two members	Unremunerated
Low Pay Commission	One member	£242 daily attendance allowance
NESTA	Two members	£9,000 pa. One member has refused the remuneration
One North East	Chair	£54,479 pa
Postcomm	Chair	£51,500 pa
	Three members	£11,412 pa. One member unremunerated
Research Councils	One member	£6,850 pa
	Four members	£6,850 pa
Student Loans Company	Chair	£50,000 pa
	One member	£9,000 pa
UK Atomic Energy Authority	Three members	£15,000 pa
UK Commission for Employment and Skills	Chair	£28,000 pa
Yorkshire Forward	Chair	£81,718

Details of public body boards can be found on the website of each body.

Driving Instruction: Qualifications

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many grants were made to students resident in each local authority area to facilitate study for National Vocational Qualifications or other qualifications to obtain registration on the Approved Driving Instructor Register in each of the last five years; and what the total monetary value of those grants was in each such year. [35383]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) is an England-only programme for adults who are studying full time—450 hours of guided learning over the academic year—for their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 course. Data on ALG are not available by local authority area.

However, the ALG programme does not support the learning that is required to obtain registration on the Approved Driving Instructor Register. There are no specific NVQ or other qualifications which lead to registration on the Approved Driving Instructor Register. To register, applicants must pass the Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) exams.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many enquiries were received by Business Link from applicants who expressed an interest in obtaining registration on the Approved Driving Instructor Register with a view to establishing a driving school in each of the last five years. [35385]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills fund a range of business support and advice that is delivered via the regional development agencies through the Business Link regional advisory service. The regional advisory service providers do not record information on the enquiries they receive to the level of detail necessary to answer this question. However, they will have directed any enquiries to the appropriate information on the Business Link website.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), who manage the Business Link website, launched a new section of the site covering Transport and Logistics at the end of March 2009, which contains nine approved driving instructor (ADI) guides and two ADI transactions. Annex A gives figures for the number visits to the relevant web pages since their launch.

Annex A: Transaction pages: Apply to become an approved driving instructor (ADI)

Period	*Number of visits*
April 2009-10	23,000
April 2010-January 2011	6,500

Manage your approved driving instructor (ADI) registration and continuing professional development (CPD)

Period	*Number of visits*
April 2009-10	38,000
April 2010-January 2011	98,000

Guidance pages: Approved driving instructor (ADI) guides

Period	*Number of visits*
April 2009-10	43,000
April 2010-January 2011	35,000

Environmental Protection: Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage businesses to invest in research and development of environmental goods and services. [36233]

Mr Willetts: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills sponsored Technology Strategy Board supports business led R and D focused on environmental goods and services through a number of programmes focused on those opportunities which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity. The Department also supports the Energy Technologies Institute, a 50:50 public-private partnership, to invest in the development of low carbon energy technologies and solutions.

Furthermore, the Research Councils will continue to work closely with the Technology Strategy Board under the themes of low carbon energy and resource efficiency to help ensure investments through cross-Council programmes such as Living With Environmental Change and Energy are closely informed by business, and that businesses will readily adopt innovations that stem from excellent research.

BIS and the Department for Energy and Climate Change are also providing £40 million of dual-key funding for three testing facilities at Narec to support the development of offshore renewable energy, and the Department also supports R and D tax credits, which provide tax relief for any company undertaking a minimum of £10,000 work of R and D in the year. Companies not in profit can receive cash as an alternative to tax relief, which is helpful to companies undertaking R and D with a long lead time.

As part of the Government's commitment to creating the most competitive corporate tax regime in the G20, we launched at the end of November 2010 a consultation with business on the taxation of intellectual property and the support that R and D tax credits provide for innovation which will run until 22 February 2011.

Further Education

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the barriers to participation in further education for people *(a)* up to the age of 19 years and *(b)* over the age of 19 years. [34967]

Mr Hayes: Such assessments are conducted by a range of public-sector and independent organisations. They reveal that learners may face a wide variety of, for example, practical, geographical, social and financial barriers to participation depending on their individual circumstances.

Schools, colleges and training providers play a vital role in identifying and overcoming those barriers.

Graduates: Student Numbers

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many postgraduate students studying at UK higher education institutions were *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* citizens of other EU countries and *(c)* citizens of each other non-EU country in each of the last 10 years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of postgraduate students in each such category in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [35475]

Mr Willetts: The number of postgraduate students enrolled at UK higher education institutions are shown by country of domicile. Figures are provided for the UK, European Union and each overseas non-European Union country for the academic years 2000/01 to 2009/10. This is the latest information available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). These can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2012.

The Department does not plan for the number of postgraduate students at UK higher education institutions.

Green Investment Bank

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make an announcement on the establishment of the proposed Green Investment Bank. [36232]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills structural reform plan, the Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be operational by September 2012. We are, however, looking to begin making investments as soon as the GIB receives funding from asset sales. We will make an announcement in May.

Higher Education: Admissions

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people normally resident in *(a)* Hastings and Rye constituency, *(b)* Hastings borough council area, *(c)* East Sussex, *(d)* the South East and (e) England applied to attend university to start in the academic year (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [35011]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following tables and is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and therefore mostly covers full-time undergraduate study[1]. Data for 2010/11 represent the final end-of-cycle data.

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS 2010/11

Geographical area	*Applicants*
Hastings and Rye constituency	918
Hastings borough council	768
East Sussex	4,737
South East	78,255
England	495,884

[1] UCAS covers full-time first degree, foundation degree, HND, HNC, Certificates of HE, Diplomas of HE (including those in social work, midwifery and nursing) and some postgraduate courses in social work.

Source:
UCAS

Data for 2011/12 represent applicants who had applied by 20 December 2010. Applicants can apply via the main scheme up until the end of June and through clearing after this. UCAS will release the next set of data on applicants for 2011/12 on 31 January.

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS 2011/12

Geographical area	*Applicants to date*
Hastings and Rye constituency	289
Hastings borough council	219
East Sussex	2,258
South East	45,478
England	268,117

Source:
UCAS

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of 18 to 24 year-olds in each socio-economic group entered higher education in each year for which figures are available. [35810]

Mr Willetts: The Full-Time Young Participation by Socio-Economic Class (FYPSEC) measure shows the proportion of young people (aged 18 to 20) from the top three and bottom four socio-economic classes (SEC) who participate for the first time in full-time higher education, together with the difference (or "gap") between these two participation rates.

For the 2008/09 academic year only, due to a one-off change in the underlying data, the SEC information can only be reliably compared when limited to students aged 18 and under. Therefore, the figures provided in the table are for earlier years and are based on 18 to 20-year-old students.

SEC information is recorded differently for young (aged under 21) and mature (aged 21 or over) students. Young students record their parent's SEC, while mature students record their own. Therefore to ensure comparability, FYPSEC is based only on young students. Figures for students aged 21 to 24 are not used in the FYPSEC measure.

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Participation rate for SECs 1-3 (percentage)	45.2	42.0	42.4	43.8	40.6	41.2
Participation rate for SECs 4-7 (percentage)	18.1	18.3	18.0	20.3	19.5	21.0
Gap (percentage point)	27.2	23.6	24.4	23.5	21.1	20.2

Note:

Due to rounding to one decimal place, the change in gap may not correspond to the gaps shown for individual years.

Source:

'Full-Time Young Participation by Socio-Economic Class: 2009 update':

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/migratedd/publications/f/fypsec-paper-2009.pdf

Higher Education: Radicalism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the policy review relating to his Department's 'Learning Together to be Safe' document will be completed; and what plans he has to publish the results of that review. [35726]

Mr Willetts: The Secretary of State for the Home Department announced in November 2010 a review of the overall Prevent strategy—the part of the counter-terrorism strategy that aims to stop people turning to or supporting violent extremism. As part of this review, the Home Office in conjunction with BIS are consulting widely on what additional and revised guidance and support colleges may need to help them manage the risk of violent extremism occurring on their campuses and how they can identify and support students who may be at risk of radicalisation. It is expected that this review will be completed within the next couple of months and will be followed by publication of a new Prevent strategy.

Following publication of the new strategy we will be discussing with colleges and Ofsted what additional guidance will be produced and how it should be taken into account in inspections.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to replace the 'Learning Together to be Safe' document withdrawn by Ofsted. [35727]

Mr Willetts: The 'Learning Together to be Safe' document has not been withdrawn. However, we have recommended to Ofsted that while the overall review of the Prevent strategy is taking place they do not inspect on it.

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Following publication of the new strategy we will be discussing with colleges and Ofsted what additional guidance will be produced and how it should be inspected on.

Manufacturing Industries

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the main areas of *(a)* strength and *(b)* weakness of the manufacturing industry. [35622]

Mr Prisk: The Growth Review Framework for Advanced Manufacturing published by the Department in December 2010 was supported by an in-depth economic and statistical analysis of the UK manufacturing sector.

This analysis shows that the UK has specialised in high technology industries such as aerospace, pharmaceuticals and medical instruments. These industries are characterised by high levels of innovation including R&D, knowledge, skills and investment in capital and intangible assets such as branding and design. OECD figures show that in 2008, around 65% of UK manufacturing exports were higher technology exports.

The UK exports a relatively smaller percentage of low technology manufactured goods which tend to be more labour intensive. These include parts of textiles, metals, and rubber and plastic products where the UK is facing increasing international competition from low wage economies.

Medicine: Education

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to take steps to ensure that the student intake for medical degrees is representative of the composition of the UK population as a whole. [35192]

Mr Willetts: The Government are establishing a new framework, with increased responsibility on universities to widen participation; and greater investment in improving attainment and access for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Universities wanting to charge more than a £6,000 annual graduate contribution will have to demonstrate what more they will do to attract more students from disadvantaged backgrounds through outreach activities, targeted scholarships and other financial support. This will include a requirement to participate in the new £150 million National Scholarship Programme. This forms part of a package of measures to support disadvantaged young people through their education, including the introduction of the £2.5 billion pupil premium which will support them to achieve at school and turn that into success at university.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is working with the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum to support and encourage actions by the professions themselves to remove the barriers to professional careers, such as Medicine, especially for people from disadvantaged groups.

Responsibility for education and healthcare issues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, including workforce planning, lies with the devolved Administrations. The planned number of medical school places in England was last increased by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), in collaboration with DH and DFES, in early 2006, to 6,194 places from autumn 2006 and there are currently no plans to change this number. The number of entrants to medical school is fairly stable, but numbers in individual institutions may vary from year to year. Universities are autonomous bodies and are responsible for their own admissions policies and decisions.

Postgraduate Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of employers' requirements for postgraduate skills; and if he will make a statement. [34933]

Mr Willetts: A number of bodies including the UK Commission on Employment and Skills (UKCES), the Research Councils, the CBI and EngineeringUK, among others make regular assessments of employers' skills requirements, including their needs for postgraduate level skills.

A comprehensive review of postgraduate provision in the UK was presented to Government by Professor Sir Adrian Smith in 2010. This included analyses of the links between postgraduate skills and business needs. We will respond to the findings of the review in the forthcoming White Paper.

Research: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many postgraduate researchers in each subject were funded by each higher education institution in each of the last 10 years; how many postgraduate researchers he expects to be funded by each higher education institution in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [35489]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The number of postgraduate research students enrolled on courses which were funded by institutions are shown by subject area in the tables. Figures are provided for the academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10. Due to a change in the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) subject coding frame in 2002/03 comparable subject data are not available for earlier years. Information on funding is based on the primary source of funding for the course, which is recorded on the HESA student record. This does not necessarily show the main source of finance as it excludes the tuition fee element. Information for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2012. The Department does not plan for the number of postgraduate researchers at institution level.

Postgraduate research students[1] funded by their institution by subject area and institution[2]. UK higher education institutions[3]. Academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10

2002/03

Subject area	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*Robert Gordon University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*Brunel University*	*University of York*	*Scottish Agricultural College*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	0	0	—	0	0	0
Biological sciences	0	0	—	0	0	—
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	0	0	0	0	0	—
Physical sciences	0	0	0	0	0	—
Mathematical sciences	0	0	5	0	0	0
Computer science	0	0	5	0	0	0
Engineering and technology	0	0	20	—	0	0
Architecture, building and planning	0	0	10	0	0	0
Social studies	—	0	—	0	—	0
Law	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business and administrative studies	0	0	25	0	0	—

Postgraduate research students[1] funded by their institution by subject area and institution[2]. UK higher education institutions[3]. Academic years 2002/03 to 2009/10

	2002/03					
Subject area	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*Robert Gordon University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*Brunel University*	*University of York*	*Scottish Agricultural College*
Mass communications and documentation	—	0	—	0	0	0
Languages	0	0	0	0	0	0
Historical and philosophical studies	5	0	0	0	0	0
Creative arts and design	0	0	5	0	0	0
Education	0	—	0	0	0	0
Combined	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	10	—	80	—	—	—

	2003/04				*2004/05*			
Subject area	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*Robert Gordon University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*Scottish Agricultural College*	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*Scottish Agricultural College*	*University of Buckingham*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0
Biological sciences	0	0	35	—	0	25	—	5
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	0
Physical sciences	0	0	0	—	0	0	—	0
Mathematical sciences	0	0	5	0	0	—	0	0
Computer science	0	0	45	0	0	30	0	5
Engineering and technology	0	0	50	0	0	30	0	0
Architecture, building and planning	0	0	45	0	0	25	0	0
Social studies	—	0	5	0	—	5	0	—
Law	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	5
Business and administrative studies	0	0	25	—	0	30	—	15
Mass communications and documentation	0	0	—	0	—	—	0	0
Languages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Historical and philosophical studies	—	0	0	0	5	0	0	5[1]
Creative arts and design	0	0	15	0	0	15	0	—
Education	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	5
Combined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5	—	245	5	5	180	5	50

	2005/06				*2006/07*			
Subject area	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*Liverpool John Moores University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*University of Portsmouth*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	0	0	20	0	0	0	20	0
Biological sciences	0	0	30	5	0	0	30	—
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2005/06				2006/07			
Subject area	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*Liverpool John Moores University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*	*Leeds Trinity and All Saints*	*University of Portsmouth*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*
Mathematical sciences	0	0	—	0	0	—	—	0
Computer science	0	0	30	5	0	0	25	10
Engineering and technology	0	0	40	0	0	0	25	0
Architecture, building and planning	0	0	25	0	0	0	20	0
Social studies	0	0	—	5	0	0	0	—
Law	0	0	—	5	0	0	—	5
Business and administrative studies	0	0	45	15	0	0	35	10
Mass communications and documentation	0	0	—	0	0	0	—	0
Languages	0	0	0	5	—	0	0	—
Historical and philosophical studies	—	0	0	5	—	0	0	10
Creative arts and design	0	0	10	—	0	—	10	—
Education	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	—
Combined	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	—	—	205	55	—	—	165	45

	2007/08			2008/09			2009/10	
Subject area	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*	*London South Bank University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*	*London South Bank University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*
Medicine and dentistry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subjects allied to medicine	15	0	20	15	0	25	20	0
Biological sciences	30	5	—	25	5	—	30	10
Veterinary science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physical sciences	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematical sciences	—	0	—	0	0	5	0	0
Computer science	20	15	—	20	15	5	25	30
Engineering and technology	30	0	15	30	0	15	20	0
Architecture, building and planning	10	0	—	25	0	0	35	0
Social studies	—	5	40	10	10	50	10	15
Law	—	5	0	5	10	0	—	10
Business and administrative studies	25	15	25	40	20	30	60	15
Mass communications and documentation	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Languages	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	10
Historical and philosophical studies	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	25
Creative arts and design	10	—	0	20	—	0	15	—
Education	0	—	35	0	—	0	0	—
Combined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	2007/08			2008/09			2009/10	
Subject area	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*	*London South Bank University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*	*London South Bank University*	*Edinburgh Napier University*	*University of Buckingham*
Total	155	65	145	190	80	135	210	115

[1] Covers students of all ages and domiciles enrolled on full-time and part-time postgraduate research courses.

[2] The tables include institutions which had postgraduate research students enrolled on courses which were funded by the institution. Those institutions which did not have postgraduate research students enrolled on courses which were funded by the institution are excluded from the tables.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to incorrect coding of subjects across the time series.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population.
2. Numbers less than five have been suppressed and are shown as '—', zero counts are shown as '0'. All other numbers in the table are rounded up or down to the nearest multiple of five. Due to the rounding strategy components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Runcorn

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the local economic effects of the closure of his Department's offices in Runcorn; if he will place in the Library the cost benefit review conducted by his Department on that closure; and what the cost to the public purse was of reviewing the implications of closing his Department's offices in Runcorn. [35631]

Mr Hayes *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Permanent Secretary has commissioned a review of BIS presence on two sites, of which Castle View House in Runcorn is one, and Mowden Hall, Darlington the other. The review will consider business, personnel and financial aspects.

The review is still in progress and no decisions on the future of either site have yet been taken, so it would be premature to go into further detail.

All staff affected have been involved in the review process along with the trade unions, who have been consulted throughout.

Students: Loans

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average level of graduate debt of those graduating in each of the *(a)* last five years and *(b)* next five years. [35213]

Mr Willetts: The average level of debt accumulated by borrowers who graduated (or otherwise left their course) in the last five years is shown as follows. Figures come from table 3(iii) of the Official Statistics: "Income Contingent repayments by repayment cohort and tax year 2000/01 to 2008/09 inclusive (provisional)" available on the Student Loans Company website at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/SLCOSP032010.pdf

Graduation/withdrawal year	*Debt (including repayments made and accrued interest) (£)*
2005	9,500
2006	9,880
2007	10,660
2008	11,510
2009	14,730

The average level of debt currently forecast for graduates in the next five years is shown in the following table. Forecasts are estimates subject to changes as we learn more about how higher education institutions and students behave under the new system. From 2013 onwards these figures will include some students who will enter higher education under the proposed new fee system.

Graduation year	*Debt (including accrued interest) (£)*
2010	17,000
2011	17,500
2012	19,000
2013	20,000
2014	21,500

Summertime

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on businesses of moving clocks forward by one hour in England and Wales, but not in Scotland; [35620]

(2) what recent representations he has received from representatives of the Lighter Later campaign. [35621]

Mr Davey: The Government are aware of a range of arguments regarding the effect of moving the clocks forward by one hour on business and other areas of activity throughout the UK including representations from the 'Lighter Later' campaign. However, as the Prime Minister has made clear the Government could not support any change in this area unless there was consensus throughout the UK. The Government believe having two time zones in a relatively small country would prove detrimental to business and families alike.

Technology: China

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese government on *(a)* technology sharing agreements with and *(b)* technology transfer to China. [35073]

Mr Prisk: There were discussions about high technology exports during the recent visit of Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang in January, during which a number of UK technologies were showcased. However our current understanding is that there are no bilateral technology sharing agreements either in place or under preparation with China.

The UK Intellectual Property Office do have co-operation agreements in place on the subject of IP protection and enforcement.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking in respect of market development for unmanned aircraft systems in the UK; and what the role is of Scotland's aerospace and military assets including the Hebrides Range in such work. [36149]

Mr Prisk: This Department recognises the potential opportunities in the unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) market and is working with business to assist in its efforts to develop capability in this area. This has included support through major research programmes called ASTRAEA I and ASTRAEA II. These are intended to enhance the UK's technology capability on UAS, in particular in sense and avoid technology.

We are also working with the Civil Aviation Authority on the process to certify UAS to operate in unregulated airspace. This will help stimulate the development in the UK of technology for potential civil applications, such as agriculture, maintenance, geographical survey, coastguard. ASTRAEA II, currently underway, is being delivered through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) with around £14 million of public support.

This Department is aware that the Hebrides Range Task Force (HRTF) is exploring opportunities for the Hebrides Range to support the development of civil UAS technology. My officials have met the HRTF and provided advice on the potential to do this and are willing to help raise business awareness of the potential of the range. My officials also highlighted to the HRTF the opportunities to work with other UK ranges, eg. Parc Aberporth, to help develop an offering attractive to businesses willing to do work in this area.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Christmas Bonus: Expenditure

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of the £10 Christmas bonus for the latest year in which figures are available. [33817]

Chris Grayling: Great Britain Christmas bonus expenditure is shown in the following table and can also be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/alltables_budget2010.xls

Expenditure 2009-10

	Nominal terms (£ million)
Christmas bonus—contribution-based	121
Christmas bonus non-contributory	32

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest £ million
Source:
DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35788]

Chris Grayling: The Department puts customer needs at the heart of all its activity. To that end, we try to ensure that the content of all our communications does not contain jargon and meets plain English requirements. Some of the content can be complex due to the subject matter and, where this is the case, it is written as simply as possible.

Our online information, available to customers on Directgov, is published by an accredited editor. The accreditation process includes demonstrating the ability to write content using plain English conventions. Feedback about the online information can be left by customers using a comment function, available throughout the Directgov site.

DWP leaflets are produced by teams that have had plain English training. All new public information leaflets are tested, prior to their launch, with customers and receive accreditation by an external plain English supplier. Feedback on the leaflets is also encouraged and can be provided in a range of ways.

The main benefit claim forms are produced by people who are trained specifically in the use of plain English and forms design. Additionally a proportion of our forms are independently accredited for plain English. Complex terms, where used, are explained in the form.

The Department is in the process of improving the 130 to 140 million letters sent annually to customers. These are generated by our computer systems and research has shown that some of our customers find the content difficult to understand. We have recently improved approximately 20 million of these letters and customers should start receiving these in the first half of 2011. We will then review and rewrite the remaining letters.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010; [35400]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35422]

Chris Grayling: Since 12 May 2010, three Secretary of State public appointments have been made. These are set out in the following table:

Non-departmental public body	*Name*	*Post*	*Remuneration*
The Pensions Regulator	Michael O'Higgins (appointed 1 January 2011)	Chairman	£57,000 per annum for two days a week. Also, entitled to expenses which will be paid in accordance with The Pensions Regulator expenses policy and procedures.

Non-departmental public body	*Name*	*Post*	*Remuneration*
Health and Safety Executive	Frances Outram (appointed 1 October 2010)	Non-Executive Board Member	£16,781 per annum. Board members are required to devote up to 30 days to the board of the Health and Safety Executive. Also, entitled to expenses which will be paid in accordance with Health and Safety expenses policy and procedures.
Health and Safety Executive	Paul Kenny (appointed 1 October 2010)	Non-Executive Board Member	£16,781 per annum. Board members are required to devote up to 30 days to the board of the Health and Safety Executive. Also, entitled to expenses which will be paid in accordance with Health and Safety expenses policy and procedures.

In addition, information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for the 2010-11 period will be published in due course.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for implementation of the recommendations of Lord Young's review of health and safety law and practice; and if he will make a statement. [35483]

Chris Grayling: The Government have welcomed Lord Young's recommendations and Departments and agencies are taking forward implementation on the basis set out in annex M of his report "Common Sense, Common Safety".

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is taking forward recommendations within its remit and is on track with delivery to the timetable set by Lord Young.

Jobcentre Plus: Redundancy

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff posts were lost in Jobcentre Plus offices in *(a)* West Lothian and *(b)* Scotland in each month of 2010. [34997]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff posts have been lost in Jobcentre Plus offices in a) West Lothian; and b) Scotland in 2010. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The way changes in staffing levels can be identified on a monthly basis is by comparing the staffing position at the end of each month. The information in the Annex below show the staffing levels in full time equivalents for each month. This is up to September 2010 which represents the latest published data.

Since January 2010, staffing levels across Jobcentre Plus have been on a reducing trend. This is due to a reduction in workloads in Jobcentre Plus; staff leaving through natural turnover; staff on fixed term appointments reaching the end of their contracts; and the impact of the wider recruitment freeze which applies across all Government departments.

Annex: West Lothian comprises Bathgate, Broxburn and Livingston Jobcentres and Bathgate Benefits Centre

Month	*Staffing*	*Change in staffing levels from previous month*
January 2010	409	—
February 2010	397	-12
March 2010	384	-13
April 2010	384	[1]—
May 2010	381	-3
June 2010	373	-8
July 2010	368	-5
August 2010	363	-5
September 2010	359	-4

[1] No change.

Scotland

Month	*Staffing*	*Change in staffing levels from previous month*
January 2010	9,407	—
February 2010	9,307	-100
March 2010	9,168	-139
April 2010	9,168	[1]—
May 2010	8,990	-178
June 2010	8,888	-102
July 2010	8,786	-102
August 2010	8,665	-121
September 2010	8,558	-107

[1] No change

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Calls

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the saving was to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus from the use of non-geographical telephone numbers in the financial year (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; and what estimate he has made of the likely saving for 2010-11. [29339]

Chris Grayling: From January 2008, there have been no revenue sharing numbers in use in the Department for Work and Pensions. Although some 08 numbers are still in use they do not attract any payback and have not done so since December 2007. As a result, there have been no savings from the use of non-geographical telephone numbers in the financial years 2008-09 and 2009-10, and there will be no savings in 2010-11.

New Enterprise Allowance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what timetable he has set for the roll-out of the new enterprise allowance to *(a)* targeted areas and *(b)* the rest of the UK; [33498]

(2) which elements of the new enterprise allowance will be introduced in Merseyside from January 2011; [33500]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the extension of the new enterprise allowance scheme. [33393]

Chris Grayling: We plan to trailblaze the new enterprise allowance (NEA) in Merseyside from the end of January, before rolling it out into other target areas from April and then nationally from autumn this year.

In Merseyside, we plan to introduce the business mentoring and low cost loan elements of the NEA. A weekly allowance will also be available.

The cost of supporting up to 40,000 new businesses under the new enterprise allowance is estimated to be around £80 million. The costs of the NEA, including its expansion, will be met from with the spending review settlement.

Post Office Card Accounts

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in *(a)* Reading West constituency and *(b)* Berkshire who have Post Office card accounts. [35826]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested as data held relate to benefit accounts rather than people. Customers may be in receipt of more than one benefit, pension or allowance which could be paid into one Post Office card account.

The number of benefit and pension accounts paid into a Post Office card account (POCA) in Reading West constituency and the other constituencies that fall within the county of Berkshire is detailed in the following table:

Berkshire constituencies	*Number*
Bracknell	2,430
Maidenhead	2,270
Newbury	3,030
Reading East	2,800
Reading West	3,690
Slough	4,370
Windsor	2,390
Wokingham	1,910
Total	22,890

Note:
Figures are rounded and relate to accounts live and in payment as at May 2010.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to paragraph 23 of his Department's White paper on Universal Credits: welfare that works, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the annual sum wrongly paid in benefits which was attributable to *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the amount so paid in error which is attributable to (i) claimant and (ii) official error in respect of benefits paid by (A) his Department, (B) local authorities and (C) HM Revenue and Customs. [34296]

Chris Grayling: The proportion of the annual sum wrongly paid in benefits attributed to fraud and error is shown in the following tables:

Amount and proportion of benefits and tax credits wrongly paid due to fraud and error

	£ billion	*Percentage*
DWP benefits (2009/10)		
Fraud	1.0	31.0
Customer error	1.1	69.0
Official error	1.1	[1]—
HMRC tax credits (2008-09)		
Fraud	1.65	78
Error	0.46	22
DWP benefits (2009-10) and HMRC tax credits (2008-09)		
Fraud	—	50
Error	—	50

[1] Indicates a brace

Amount and proportion of benefits and tax credits due to error by organisation

	£ billion	*Percentage*
DWP (2009/10)		
Total error	1.44	—
Customer error	0.59	41
Official error	0.85	59
Local authorities (housing benefit) (2009-10)		
Total error	0.76	—
Customer error	0.51	67
Official error	0.25	33
HMRC (tax credits) (2008-09)		
Customer error	0.46	—

Notes:
1. DWP and local authority figures are for 2009-10.
2. Tax credit figures are for 2008-09.
3. There is no administrative error available for tax credits.
4. The total of DWP fraud and error is actually £3.1 billion due to rounding.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he last met representatives of the General Medical Council to discuss medical assessments to determine the suitability of benefit payments. [34374]

Chris Grayling: Officials from the Health, Work and Wellbeing Directorate of the Department for Work and Pensions met with representatives of the General Medical Council to discuss issues relating to consent and confidentiality for claims to benefit on 9 December 2008.

In addition, Ministers have had several meetings with Professor Malcolm Harrington, Professor Emeritus at the university of Birmingham and a highly respected occupational physician, who recently led a wide-ranging independent review of the WCA.

Unemployment: Reading West

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of children living in workless households in Reading West constituency in each year from 1997. [35848]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the number of children living in workless households in Reading West constituency in each year from 1997. (35848)

Estimates of the number of children living in workless households are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) household datasets. These are currently available for 2004 to 2009. However, the sample size for this survey is too small to provide reliable estimates for the Reading West constituency.

Universal Credit: Lone Parents

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects on lone parents of the introduction of a universal credit. [35022]

Chris Grayling: We expect lone parents particularly to benefit from the improved incentive to enter work under universal credit as well as the greater simplicity of the system. Figure 12 of the White Paper "Universal Credit: Welfare That Works" provides an example of how lone parents will be better off in work at any hours choice rather than constrained to certain hours points (ie 16 hours) as is the case in the current system.

We will be providing further analysis of the impact of universal credit, including the impact on lone parents, as part of the impact assessment which will accompany the forthcoming Welfare Reform Bill at the start of next month.

Vacancies

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance Jobcentre Plus provides to jobseekers who do not have an internet connection at home on how to access information on job vacancies. [34787]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Question about what guidance Jobcentre Plus provides to jobseekers who do not have an internet connection at home on how to access information on job vacancies. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We recognise the upward trend of employers using online applications as their preferred method of recruitment, so we know it is becoming increasingly important for our customers to be able to search for and apply for jobs online.

In response and in recognition that not everyone has internet access at home, we have put in place measures to help people gain access to online vacancies through other means.

This includes signposting people in England to the UK online free-phone telephone number 0800 771234 (or other similar services in Scotland and Wales) to find their nearest UK online centre; and signposting directly to known local sources of access such as the local library.

Advisers will also highlight other means of access such as using smart phones to access the internet to look for jobs. We have developed a specific smart phone job search application available for I Phone and Google Android systems so customers with these handsets can have ready access to vacancies at the touch of a button.

To help further raise the profile of our own online services, we are also committed to the "Race on Line" initiative, part of which has seen the deployment of a Digital Champion in every local Jobcentre Plus office. Their role is to promote digital take up and to find what support is available locally for customers to get online through partner organisations and share this information with colleagues to help and encourage customers to get online.

Over and above helping people access vacancies online, we also signpost people to the Direct Gov job bank through Jobseeker Direct (our telephony based jobsearch and matching service) on 0845 606 0234 and Job Points in every Jobcentre Plus local office, both of which provide people with fast and easy access to thousands of jobs.

I hope this reply is helpful and assures you of our intent to make sure jobseekers get the help they need to look and apply for jobs.

Welfare State: Reform

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanism he plans to put in place to measure the effects on vulnerable groups of the implementation of his proposals for welfare reform. [35235]

Chris Grayling: The Department will be drawing up plans for the evaluation of welfare reform measures and their impact on client groups. This will also include analysis of the delivery of the reforms and statistical data to look at their effect on meeting Government objectives.

Welfare to Work: Contracts

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* process and *(b)* requirements are for becoming an accredited provider for the Welfare to Work programme; and if he will make a statement. [35195]

Chris Grayling: All of the prime providers who are awarded Work Programme contracts will be required to undertake the new Merlin accreditation process within 12 months of their contract start date. This will ensure that there are robust and healthy supply chains and that smaller providers are treated fairly in their dealings with prime providers.

The accreditation process begins with a provider self-assessment against the published Merlin standard principles. This is followed by an independent expert evaluation including discussions with both the prime provider and a selection of their sub-contractors. Only those providers who demonstrate effective supply chain policies and practices will be awarded Merlin accreditation. The reports from each Merlin assessment will be publicly available via the Merlin web portal.

Winter Fuel Payments: Care Homes

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living in care homes received winter fuel payments in the latest period for which figures are available. [33646]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

Remploy: Redundancy

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on what date Ministers in his Department last met *(a)* Remploy, *(b)* trade unions and *(c)* officials of his Department to discuss the announcement of voluntary redundancies at Remploy factories; [35764]

(2) what steps his Department took to examine alternatives to voluntary redundancies at Remploy factories. [35767]

Maria Miller: Regular discussions take place between Ministers, officials, Remploy management and other key stakeholders to discuss issues relating to the company.

The offer of voluntary redundancies is a decision made by Remploy management to help the continuing operation of the businesses within that budget and to help ensure all employees have meaningful work.

I am always happy to receive representations from Remploy staff, management and unions.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 26 January 2011

TRANSPORT

Railways: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to help reduce overcrowding on commuter rail services serving Bexley. [36204]

Mrs Villiers: Under the terms of its franchise agreement, Southeastern is required to manage its rolling stock resources to ensure there is sufficient capacity on each rail service to minimise overcrowding.

Following the introduction of the December 2009 timetable, Southeastern carried out a survey of the loadings of services. This resulted in Southeastern strengthening a number of services operating to Bexley from the May 2010 timetable change date.

Network Rail is in the course of carrying out an assessment of the power supply to determine what work needs to be done to enable longer trains to run on commuter routes in the Southeastern suburban area in the future.

Roads: Management

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to encourage local authorities to develop highways asset management plans; [35533]

(2) how many local authorities have a highways asset management plan. [35700]

Norman Baker: In England development of highways asset management plans are a matter for each local highway authority.

The Department for Transport recognises the value of good asset management in delivering effective and efficient highway services to meet local needs. The Department will therefore continue to work closely with the UK Roads Liaison Group, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) and others to help spread best practice in highways asset management, including through the highways maintenance efficiency programme announced as part of the spending review.

Shipping: Pilots

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 29W, on shipping, if he will publish the advice he received on section 32(1) of the Pilotage Act 1987 in relation to the regulation of standards of qualifications for statutory pilots. [35683]

Mike Penning: It is an important principle that, in certain circumstances, individuals and public authorities are able to consult in confidence. The Department for Transport, in common with all other Government Departments, does not disclose the advice it receives about legislation.

Train Operating Companies: Waste Disposal

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the provision which permits train operating companies to operate on passenger rail services sanitary facilities which discharge waste directly on to tracks. [36157]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport would like to see all passenger trains fitted with retention toilet systems, an aspiration that is fully supported by the wider rail industry. However, this will take time to deliver given its reliance on the introduction of new trains, which are all fitted with retention toilets, and the extent to which such systems can be retrofitted to older fleets.

The Department is working with train operators, Network Rail and rolling stock leasing companies to identify affordable opportunities to install toilet retention systems and other mitigations in older fleets.

Trust Ports

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is able to take in consequence of an assessment that a trust port has lost the confidence of its stakeholders; [35508]

(2) whether he has reviewed the quality of stakeholder engagement required of trust ports; [35518]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the confidence stakeholders have in each trust port. [35519]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport's guidance to the sector (Modernising Trust Ports, second edition) makes clear that trust ports should always deal with their stakeholders in an accountable manner. Trust ports are asked to report annually on their compliance with the guidance, and where they have not been able to comply, explain their reasons. In the normal course of business, Ministers and officials from the Department meet with both trust port managers and stakeholders.

I am satisfied that the guidance, which represents a code of good practice, provides clear direction to the sector as well as to stakeholders seeking recourse.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the criteria to apply to a community bid for a trust port supported by relevant stakeholders. [35510]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport produced a guidance note concerning the procedure for the sale of trust ports in January 2010 which remains in force. A copy of the guidance is in the Library of the House.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received any request or proposal from a trust port to seek powers through a harbour revision order to modify the terms of the Ports Act 1991 for the purposes of relinquishing public corporation status. [35517]

Mike Penning: In 2004, six of the major trust ports in England and Wales applied to the Secretary of State to modify their status through harbour revision orders which, among other things, would disapply the Secretary of State's power under the Ports Act 1991 to require compulsory privatisation. These applications for orders were all subject to objections and, except for the one that has since been withdrawn, under S.I. 2010 No. 674 they now fall to the Marine Management Organisation to determine within the procedures set out in the Harbours Act 1964 as amended by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and with regard to any relevant policy guidance from the Department for Transport.

Trust Ports: Privatisation

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on issuing guidance to *(a)* the Dover Harbour Board and *(b)* other trust ports on proposals for restructuring and privatisation under the provisions of the Ports Act 1991. [35344]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr Chope) of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1250W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Uranium

Eric Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* security of and *(b)* likely effect on nuclear disarmament of a consignment of partially-enriched uranium abandoned in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [35730]

Mr Bellingham: We are aware of recent reports regarding the security of nuclear materials, including in the November 2010 UN Group of Experts report. We take such reports of potential proliferation of nuclear materials seriously, and work with international partners to address such threats.

WALES

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what single tender contracts her Department has awarded since her appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36194]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has issued one single tender contract since 12 May 2010. It did not exceed the EU public procurement threshold.

Dwyfor Meirionnydd

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans she has to visit Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency on official business in the next six months. [35571]

Mrs Gillan: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer to him on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 194W.

Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many official engagements she undertook in Wales in *(a)* October, *(b)* November and *(c)* December 2010. [35610]

Mrs Gillan: I carried out 10 official engagements in Wales between October and December 2010.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Internet

Mr Jenkin: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much has been paid by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to hon. Members for the provision of website services in the current financial year to date; and in respect of how many hon. Members such payments have been made. [35148]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how much has been paid by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to hon. Members for the provision of website services in the current financial year to date; and in respect of how many hon. Members such payments have been made.

We have paid a total of £110,672.50 to Members for the provision of website services in this financial year and such payments have been made to 149 Members.

Telephone Services

Mrs Main: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what consultation was conducted by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) prior to the recent reduction in the opening hours of the IPSA telephone enquiry service. [35447]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald, dated January 2011:

As Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what consultation was conducted by the Independent

Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) prior to the reduction in the opening hours of the IPSA telephone enquiry service. 35447

Many MPs had said to us that they felt that they had to wait too long when calling our information line. In the light of this feedback, we decided to switch to a different model, where our phone lines are open for a shorter period but they are staffed more intensively during that period.

The approach we have taken reflects both the feedback we have received from MPs themselves but also our own data, which shows that more MPs and their staff choose to call us in the afternoon.

The outcome of this approach has been a marked improvement in the service we provide to MPs and their staff. Previously, we were answering around 50 per cent of calls in 60 seconds. In the fortnight since we introduced the new operating hours, call volumes have remained steady—but we are now answering around 98 per cent of calls within 60 seconds.

Mrs Main: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what discussions he had with representatives of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority on the recent reduction in the opening hours of its telephone enquiry service. [35448]

Mr Charles Walker: I have had no discussions with representatives of the IPSA on the reduction in the opening hours of the telephone enquiry service, which is an operational matter for the IPSA.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

British Aerospace: Tanzania

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Attorney-General if he will make an assessment of the mechanisms available for enforcement of the undertaking given by BAE to make a payment to benefit the people of Tanzania as part of the settlement announced at Southwark crown court on 21 December 2010 in the case of BAE and the sale of an air traffic control system to Tanzania. [32768]

The Solicitor-General: As part of the plea agreement reached with the SFO which was sanctioned by Southwark crown court on 21 December 2010, BAE agreed to make an ex-gratia payment to the people of Tanzania of £30 million less the fine imposed by the court. No formal legal mechanism for enforcement of such a payment exists, but BAE invited the court to pass sentence on this basis and received a fine which took into account the ex gratia payment. There is nothing to suggest that BAE will not make the ex-gratia payment. BAE is currently considering a proposal by the Government of Tanzania about how the payment will be used for the benefit of the people of Tanzania. The Department for International Development have advised the Government of Tanzania on the development of their proposal.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General what the Law Officers Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees they have on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34600]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is detailed as follows:

The Attorney-General's Office (AGO) does not have a policy on the space provided per employee. However use of space is kept under review. As a result the office is now shared with the Office for Budget Responsibility.

AGO does not operate a hot desking policy and provides one desk per employee.

The average space per employee is 17.25m². This includes common areas such as reception and hallways and unusable office space such as plant rooms in the basement. AGO follows the Treasury Solicitor's Department (TSoL) flexible working policy which includes home working.

TSoL policy is to make the most cost effective use of accommodation by operating flexible working arrangements, including providing nine desks for every 10 employees in their main location. In January 2011 in their main location the average number of employees per desk is 1.09 and the space provided on average per employee is 8.79m².

The Treasury Solicitor's Department does provide for limited home working, subject to the needs of the business and with the prior agreement of line managers.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has targets to reduce the size of its estate to a ratio of 10 square metres per employee, and achieve a ratio of between 8 and 10 square metres per employee when acquiring new property or following major refurbishments. As at 30 September 2010, the CPS estate averaged 16m² per employee. The Department does not hold separate figures on the number of desks or workstations on the estate.

The CPS has a policy on home working and a number of employees do work from home. Some CPS employees work in posts which are home-based on a permanent basis, e.g. employees working for CPS Direct (CPSD), which provides charging advice to the police outside normal business hours. In addition, some employees work from home on a casual basis (i.e. as a non-permanent arrangement), at the discretion of their line management, where there is benefit for both the CPS and the employee. The CPS has no specific policy covering hot desking.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) utilises an open plan office policy; there are no cellular offices on the SFO's estate. This provides more space for meeting rooms which are shared by both the SFO and National Fraud Authority (NFA).

There is a full and detailed policy for home working which is one of the options available to staff under the SFO's flexible working policy. There are two types of home working:

Working from home, where the home is used as a base location and the employee may sometimes be required to travel to and from the office

Working at home, where the employee is based at an office but carries out some work in their own home

The combined staffing of the SFO and NFA means there are approximately 0.8 employees per desk. There are 20 hot-desks available for SFO staff. On average there is 12.4m² of space per employee inclusive of meeting rooms and storage space.

The NFA recognises the benefit of flexible working arrangements and enables employees to work from home as necessary, with appropriate authorisation, but has no policy regarding the provision of office space per employee and hot desking.

HMCPI's London office occupies a listed building and the average space per employee is 29.5m^2. This includes common areas such as reception and hallways and unusable office space such as plant rooms in the basement. HMCPSI currently does not have a policy on the space provided per employee, however the Inspectorate will soon be relocating to the TSol offices in One Kemble street where an open plan policy and hot desking policy is in operation, and it is anticipated that the average space per employee will be much reduced.

HMCPSI currently have two members of staff who work on a regular basis from home. Staff are entitled to apply to work from home via their line managers and such a request would be considered in line with HMCPSI's flexible working policy which takes into account the business needs of the organisation and any security issues.

Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Attorney-General when the Law Officers' Departments last published a Welsh language scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993; and at which web addresses such schemes can be accessed in *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* English. [31157]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officer's Departments are not considered to be "public bodies" under the provisions of the Welsh Language Act 1993 (Section 21) and are consequently not required to publish a Welsh Language Scheme. The Crown Prosecution Service is the only Law Officer's Department which has produced one and this was last published in 2008. It can be found at:

http://www.byig-wlb.org.uk/English/publications/Publications/Welsh%20Language%20Scheme%20-%20Crown%20Prosecution%20Service.pdf

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether implementation of his proposals to reform air passenger duty will be revenue-neutral. [35964]

Justine Greening: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 83W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (Dr Poulter).

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reason premium economy aircraft seats are liable for the same rate of air passenger duty as business and first class aircraft seats; [36028]

(2) what recent representations he has received from airlines on the rate of duty levied on premium economy seats; and if he will assess the effect on levying such duty at a higher rate on the propensity of airlines to offer premium economy seats in future. [36029]

Justine Greening: Seats on an aircraft only qualify for the reduced rate of air passenger duty (APD) if they are the lowest class of travel and have a seat pitch that does not exceed 40 inches. This criterion applies irrespective of how the seat is marketed.

Since the Budget in June, the Government have met a number of stakeholders to discuss APD. The Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system and major changes will be subject to consultation.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future level of air passenger duty in respect of premium economy passengers. [36358]

Justine Greening: Seats on an aircraft only qualify for the reduced rate of air passenger duty (APD) if they are the lowest class of travel and have a seat pitch that does not exceed 40 inches. This criterion applies irrespective of how the seat is marketed.

Since the Budget in June, the Government have met a number of stakeholders to discuss APD. The Government will explore changes to the aviation tax system and major changes will be subject to consultation.

Car Allowances

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of reviewing the level of the HM Revenue and Customs mileage allowance payment. [36047]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in response to the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire (Gordon Banks) on 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 785W.

Child Benefit

Karl Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential savings to the Exchequer of withdrawing child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer if the higher rate threshold were adjusted to negate an increase in the personal allowance to £10,000. [35921]

Justine Greening: The estimated savings depend on the year in which the personal allowance is increased to £10,000. This is subject to future Budget policy decisions, meaning it is not currently possible to estimate the potential savings.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of trends in the number of credit unions in the last 20 years. [35820]

Mr Hoban: In 1990 there were 275 credit unions in Great Britain, peaking in 2001 at 698, but since then decreasing to 443. Over the same period, the membership of credit unions has grown from 53,916 to over 760,000. We have no comparable figures for Northern Ireland. The Legislative Reform (Industrial and Provident Societies and Credit Unions) Order, currently going through Parliament, should enable credit unions to expand their membership further.

Departmental Billing

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of payments made by his Department to *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprise suppliers and *(b)* all suppliers were made (i) within 10 days of receipt of invoice and (ii) on the agreed payment terms in the last three months for which information is available. [11165]

Justine Greening: The Treasury aims to pay all suppliers, irrespective of size, within the same time period. The following table shows the 10 day payment performance for the Treasury for the past three months.

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days
May	94.4
June	96.5
July	98.2

Details of the five day payment performance for the Treasury Group (HM Treasury, Debt Management Office and Office of Government Commerce) can be found at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34818]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury has no sub-contracted staff servicing 1 Horse Guards road earning less than or equivalent to the London living wage. However HM Treasury has no involvement in wage levels for staff employed by Exchequer Partnership which provides building maintenance and services.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34592]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury's Departmental policy on *(a)* space provided per employee *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking is to provide adequate space and flexible working opportunities to support the business in effectively delivering its objectives. In 2009-10, HM Treasury had an average of 1.1 workstations per full-time equivalent employee (FTE)—approximately 0.9 FTE per workstation—at an average space allocation of 13.1 m^2. Current IT and workplace projects are improving the way the Treasury works, including using space more efficiently, supporting remote working more effectively and moving to desk sharing during the 2010 spending review period.

Departmental Written Questions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for written answer on a named day were answered substantively before or on the day named for answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 had not received a substantive answer by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for written answer on a named day on the day named for answer in the latest period for which figures are available. [25969]

(2) how many and what proportion of questions tabled to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for ordinary written answer *(a)* in Session 2009-10 and *(b)* since May 2010 were answered within (i) seven days and (ii) 14 days of tabling; how many such questions tabled between May 2010 and 12 November 2010 remained unanswered by 18 November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of answering a question for ordinary written answer within seven days of tabling in the latest period for which figures are available. [25970]

Justine Greening: The Government have committed to providing the Procedure Committee with statistics by Session in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions for the 2009-10 Session of Parliament. This information will be submitted to the Procedure Committee shortly.

The information covering the beginning of the current Session to 20 December is set out in the table.

	Total received	*Answered on or before the due date (percentage)*	*Answered within 7 days*	*Answered within 14 days*
Named day	441	58.3	n/a	n/a
Ordinary written	1,508	66.4	328	139

Treasury Ministers have replied substantively to all PQs tabled to the Department between May 2010 and 12 November.

The Treasury conducts an annual indexation exercise of the cost of written and oral parliamentary questions so as to ensure that these average costs go up in line with increases in underlying costs. The estimated costs that have applied from 20 January 2010 are £154 for written questions and £425 for oral questions. The Treasury, in making its assessment of the cost of answering questions, does not differentiate between the types of written questions.

Economy and Public Finances

Karl Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library an update to the estimated value of assets set out in table 2.2 of Budget 2010: the economy and public finances, supplementary material for the latest period in which figures are available. [35864]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility published an update to the aforementioned table in 'Further information on asset sales, financial transactions, and privatisation receipts' on 21 December 2010. This publication is available at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/asset_sales_financial_transactions_211210.pdf

EU Institutions: Fines

Graham Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the potential UK liability for fines from EU institutions in the next three years. [36523]

Justine Greening: The United Kingdom has never incurred a financial penalty under article 260 of the treaty on the functioning of the European Union (or under the former article 228 (ex article 171) of the treaty establishing the European Community). No such financial penalties are expected over the next three years.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average cost to motorists in the next 12 months of the recent increase in the rate of fuel duty . [35924]

Justine Greening: Data on average retail road fuel prices are published every week by the Department of Energy and Climate Change at:

www.decc.gov.uk/publications

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from motoring groups on his policy on a fuel price stabiliser. [36068]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

The Chancellor routinely receives a range of representations from stakeholders and the general public on current and future rates of excise duty as well as other issues such as fuel prices.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to introduce a fuel duty stabiliser. [36256]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 665W, to the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Zac Goldsmith).

Financial Services

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the main areas of *(a)* strength and *(b)* weakness of the financial services industry. [35625]

Mr Hoban: The Government in conjunction with the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority (FSA) are closely monitoring the strength and vulnerability of the UK's banking sector.

The Bank of England regularly publish Financial Stability Reports and in their latest one set out in detail their assessment of the resilience of the UK financial system. The Government assessment of UK financial institutions is also informed by international reports by the IMF and OECD such as the Global Financial Stability Report.

The key financial institutions have also been subject to a rigorous stress testing exercise assessing the strengths and weaknesses of UK institutions and ensuring that they are well capitalised. In addition, the UK is working closely with the IMF on a system-wide stress test of the UK financial sector as part of the IMF Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) for the UK. This report is expected to be published in July 2011.

Foreign Exchange: Regulation

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the regulation of currency exchange services; what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who have outstanding liabilities following the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange; and what recent representations he has received on the entry into administration of Crown Currency Exchange. [36245]

Mr Hoban: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 15 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 613W.

Members: Correspondence

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Commercial Secretary to the Treasury intends to respond to the letter of 23 July 2010 from the hon. Member for Monmouth on national savings and investments. [31885]

Justine Greening: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 16 December 2010.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 7 October and 13 December 2010 regarding child benefit. [36144]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Royal Mint

Mr Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much profit of the Royal Mint has been paid to the Exchequer in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [30895]

(2) whether he or Ministers in his Department have authorised spending by the Royal Mint on television advertising; [30896]

(3) what the cost to the public purse is of the television advertising campaign by the Royal Mint. [30897]

Justine Greening: The Royal Mint is a Government-owned company which operates at arm's length from HM Treasury within an agreed governance framework. The Royal Mint pays a regular dividend to HM Treasury as declared in its annual report and accounts, which in 2009-10 was £4 million, in 2008-09 was £4 million and in 2007-08 was £3.9 million. Operational decisions such as advertising strategy are made by the company on a commercial basis and details of these are commercially confidential.

Tax Avoidance

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised as a result of Government action against tax avoidance *(a)* in the last five years and *(b)* since May 2010; and how much such revenue he expects to raise in the next 12 months. [36287]

Mr Gauke: Total results for tax recovered as a result of our tackling non-compliance can be found in HMRC's Departmental Autumn Performance Report 2009 at table 4, which is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2009.pdf

The amounts attributable to avoidance are not identifiable separately because HMRC do not collate performance data on this basis.

The fiscal impact of all Budget measures, including measures to close off avoidance opportunities, can be found in each Budget report.

On 6 December the Government announced a package of further measures to tackle tax avoidance. These measures in aggregate are estimated to raise over £2 billion in additional revenue over the next four years. The final costings for the package of measures will be subject to scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility and will be set out at the Budget.

The Government are also investing £900 million over the spending review period to transform HMRC's work against avoidance, evasion and criminal attack, to bring in extra tax revenue of around £7 billion a year by 2014-15.

Tax Yields: Northern Ireland

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was *(a)* collected in taxation and *(b)* spent on public services in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [36005]

Danny Alexander: Figures on the total amount of taxes collected in Northern Ireland are not available. The latest figures for total identifiable spending in Northern Ireland are published in table 9.1, Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2010 (Cm 7890).

Taxation: Bingo

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has met representatives of the bingo industry to discuss taxation of the industry. [10590]

Justine Greening: Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and implementation. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Guto Bebb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential effects on businesses in North Wales of replacing the amusement machine licence duty with a gross profits tax. [35567]

Justine Greening: The Government are seeking further input from industry on Machine Games Duty, and it is intended that a formal consultation will be held in spring or early summer.

EDUCATION

Children: Protection

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children aged *(a)* under one, *(b)* between one and four, *(c)* between five and nine, *(d)* between 10 and 15 and *(e)* over 16 years went from being subject to a care order or protection order etc, to each category of destination in each year since 1995. [29389]

Tim Loughton: The information requested on how many children aged *(a)* under one, *(b)* between one and four, *(c)* between five and nine, *(d)* between 10 and 15 and *(e)* over 16 years went from care, defined as subject to a care order or protection order etc, to each category of destination in each year since 1995 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Allowances

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* reimbursement of staff expenses and *(b)* the 10 largest staff expense reimbursement claims in each year since 1997. [13049]

Tim Loughton: Information available on the reimbursements spent on staff expenses is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Total staff reimbursement costs (£)*
2004-05	3,968.78
2005-06	66,421.89
2006-07	68,594.29
2007-08	83,297.65
2008-09	39,960.04
2009-10	88,221.93

Information for previous years and the 10 largest claims for all years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he has taken since his appointment to reduce expenditure on conferences from budgets within his responsibility. [28353]

Tim Loughton: The Department has put in place efficiency controls to ensure significant items of expenditure are approved at a senior level. Where possible, conferences are held within the Department's premises in order to keep costs to a minimum.

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's annual budget for conferences was at *(a)* 7 May 2010 and *(b)* 7 December 2010. [30035]

Tim Loughton: The Department's annual budget for management conferences at 7 May 2010 was £213,000 and at 7 December 2010 it was £126,541. This is a reduction of £86,459 or 40.6%.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18277]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 October 2010]:* The Government stated in its "Spending Review Framework" that it would

> "look closely at the effects of its decisions on different groups in society, especially the least well off, and on different regions"

(2.4, page 7). The Treasury has published its "Overview of the impact of the Spending Review on equalities". The Department will further consider equalities impacts as appropriate and as decisions are taken on how to pursue policy aims with the resources allocated to us.

Departmental Procurement

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent discussions he has had with voluntary and community groups on bidding for contracts let by his Department. [32032]

Tim Loughton: The Minister of State with responsibility for Children and Families my hon. Friend the Member for Brent Central (Sarah Teather) and I met representatives of key departmental voluntary and community organisations on 11 November 2010 to consult them on draft proposals for the overall process for future funding of the voluntary and community sector which subsequently resulted in our national prospectus published on 22 November 2010 inviting expressions of interest for grants through open competition.

Latin: GCSE

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons Latin has been disallowed as a GCSE examination by the Welsh Joint Education Committee. [35572]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* This is a matter for the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). The chief executive of Ofqual, Isabel Nisbet, will write to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Pupils: Bullying

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many grants his Department made to organisations engaged in bullying prevention in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10; and what his estimate is of the number of such grants to be made in 2010-11. [27700]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 30 November 2010]:* The Department for Education's predecessors awarded both grants and contracts to organisations engaged in anti-bullying work between the financial years of 2004-05 and 2009-10. The work undertaken by these organisations ranged from the production of guidance and resources on bullying to supporting schools and local authorities develop their strategies to tackle bullying. The total budget of these grants and contracts for the six the financial years from 2004-05 to 2009-10 was £10,479,975.00, an average of £1.75 million per financial year. The organisations in receipt of the grants and/or contracts were:

Anti-Bullying Alliance
Parentline Plus
Diana Awards
Beatbullying
Stonewall
ChildLine in Partnership with Schools Programme
Mentoring and Befriending Foundation
Kidscape
Childnet International
Council for Disabled Children

The Department for Education budget for anti-bullying prevention in 2010-11 financial year is £1,979,711.00. This budget will be spent on two grants and three contracts to Kidscape, Diana Awards, Parentline Plus, Beatbullying and the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Schools: Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in the city of Brighton and Hove area operated a school sport partnership programme in each year since 2007. [32397]

Tim Loughton: All maintained schools in the city of Brighton and Hove have been members of the Dorothy Stringer school sport partnership (SSP) since 2007. The Secretary of State has confirmed funding for the partnerships until the end of the school year 2010/11, after which it will be for Brighton and Hove schools to decide for themselves whether to continue to work in partnership to organise competitive sport. The Secretary of State has also announced that every secondary school will be funded to summer 2013 to allow a PE teacher to be out of the classroom for a day a week, embedding current good practice and encouraging greater take-up of competitive sport.

Schools: Brighton Kemptown

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of standards of attainment in schools in the Brighton, Kemptown constituency. [31495]

Mr Gibb: The latest available information is given in the following tables:

Key Stage 2: Percentage of pupils attending schools in Brighton Kemptown achieving level 4 or above in both English and Mathematics, 2008 to 2010

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Bevendean Primary School	67	59	59
Carlton Hill Primary School	92	63	[1]—
Coombe Road Primary School	61	57	[1]—
Hoddern Junior School	64	62	[1]—
Meridian Community Primary School	77	69	54
Moulsecoomb Primary School	61	49	[1]—
Our Lady of Lourdes RC School	86	75	[1]—
Queen's Park Primary School	78	57	[1]—
Rudyard Kipling Primary School	82	48	[1]—
Saltdean Primary School	75	75	[1]—
St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School	80	83	[1]—
St Luke's Primary School	79	80	[1]—
St Margaret's CofE Primary School	72	78	79
St Mark's CofE Primary School	48	60	[1]—
Telscombe Cliffs Community Primary School	68	75	59
Whitehawk Primary School	33	28	[1]—
Woodingdean Primary School	83	77	[1]—
Downs View Special School	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Brighton Kempton constituency	70	65	n/a
England	73	72	73

n/a = Not available.

[1] Boycott school. The school did not submit Key Stage 2 results.

[2] The school had 10, or fewer, pupils eligible for KS2 assessment at the time of the tests. Results are not shown because of the risk of an individual pupil's results being identified.

Source:
School and College Performance tables

Key Stage 4: Percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 attending schools in Brighton Kemptown gaining 5+ A- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Mathematics GCSEs, 2008 to 2010*

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Falmer High School[1]	19	25	23
Longhill High School	36	41	43
Peacehaven Community School	46	41	44
Downs View Special School	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Brighton Kemptown constituency	34.7	36.8	n/a
England	47.6	49.8	53.4

n/a = Not available.

[1] Falmer High School closed on 31 August 2010.

[2] Data suppressed as the school has 10 or fewer pupils in a particular denominator for the indicator. Results are not shown because of the risk of an individual pupil's results being identified.

Source:
School and College Performance tables

The School and College Performance tables can be accessed via the Department's website at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/performancetables/

We want all children, whatever their background, to achieve high standards in reading, writing and mathematics. That is why we are introducing a pupil premium which will provide extra funding for those schools with the most challenging intakes.

Schools: Sports

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much School Sport Partnership grant was allocated to schools in Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency in 2009-10. [28835]

Tim Loughton: Stoke-on-Trent Central is within the Berry Hill school sport partnership (SSP). For academic year 2009/10 Berry Hill received a total of £292,387 of SSP funding. This money was divided between one sports college, eight secondary schools, one secondary special school, two special primary schools, one pupil referral unit (PRU) and 34 primary schools.

Sixth Form Colleges: Finance

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the Barnett consequentials are of the funding arrangements announced in his statement on 19 January 2011 on capital funding for sixth form colleges and 16 to 19 years basic need; and if he will make a statement. [35844]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

Capital funding in 2011-12 for sixth form colleges and for places in schools and academies with sixth forms will be funded from within DFE's existing spending review 2010 capital allocations. The allocation of the funding entails no new spending and as a result no new funding for the devolved Administrations. The devolved Administrations have received Barnett consequentials on this funding in the normal way.

Third Sector: Finance

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many third sector organisations or registered charities have received funding from the Youth Sector Development Fund; and what the cost to the public purse was of that programme on the latest date for which figures are available. [20467]

Tim Loughton: The Youth Sector Development Fund has provided grant funding and business support to 43 civil sector organisations. Total grant, management and business support costs from April 2008 to the end of September 2010 are £56.3 million.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to question 18277, on equality impact assessments, tabled on 14 October 2010 for ordinary written answer. [29766]

Tim Loughton: A response was issued to the hon. Member today.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Employment

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the arts sector in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [36101]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold this information. However, Arts Council England has provided figures relating to the number of arts sector staff, in each employment category, in their Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs). The 2009-10 figures for Yorkshire and the Humber are set out in the table.

Local authority	*Permanent full-time*	*Permanent part-time*	*Contractual*
Barnsley	3	4	30
Bradford	92	50	353
Calderdale	16	18	104
Craven	0	12	8
Doncaster	9	26	36
East Riding of Yorkshire	3	22	53
Hambleton	4	2	55
Harrogate	22	23	59
Kingston upon Hull, City of	40	57	112
Kirklees	47	34	332
Leeds	433	179	1,406
North East Lincolnshire	0	10	16
North Lincolnshire	6	29	0
Richmondshire	8	4	16
Ryedale	4	6	330
Scarborough	34	17	60
Sheffield	194	115	552
Wakefield	101	116	78
York	39	26	175
Total	1,055	750	3,775

Broadband

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the suitability of north Wales as a designated area in the next round of broadband pilots. [35743]

Mr Vaizey: I have made no such assessment. The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport announced on 6 December that £50 million would be made available for the next round of broadband projects. Bids for support for projects will be invited from local authorities in April 2011 on the basis of guidance from Broadband Delivery UK, to be issued in the near future. At that point, any bid from north Wales will be given the same consideration as all the others submitted.

Creative Industries

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the main areas of *(a)* strength and *(b)* weakness of the creative industries. [35623]

Mr Vaizey: I have not made any specific assessment of the main areas of strength and weakness of the creative industries. However, the Creative Industries Economic Estimates Report produced by DCMS in December 2010 reported that the creative industries, excluding crafts, accounted for 5.6% of gross value added to the UK economy in 2008.

Potential opportunities and barriers to growth in this sector will be considered as part of the digital and creative industries growth review.

Cricket: Television

Mark Menzies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the broadcast of *(a)* future Ashes series and *(b)* other live Test cricket on terrestrial television; and if he will make a statement. [36142]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has received no recent representations on the broadcasting of test cricket. The Government have made the decision to defer any review of listed events until 2013 following the completion of digital switchover.

Internet

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date he plans to hold the proposed Ministerial seminar on hate on the internet. [35723]

Mr Vaizey: My officials are in discussion with other interested Departments and we hope to arrange for these important matters to be discussed further in the spring.

Lottery

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much has been paid from the Big Lottery fund to projects in *(a)* the most deprived 100 wards and *(b)* the least deprived 100 wards in each year for which data is available. [35808]

Mr Vaizey: The information requested is not held centrally.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of the Big Lottery Fund to write to the hon. Member for the Vale of Clwyd directly.

Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure on matched funding for Rural Development Fund payments to farmers in England in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the next four years. [35754]

Mr Paice: The estimate used for DEFRA's 2010-11 Exchequer contribution to the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13, as part of spending review 2010, was £193 million.

The annual indicative spending plans for the Exchequer contribution over the remainder of the current programme period, up to 2013, are:

2011-12: £140 million
2012-13: £137 million
2013-14: £127 million.

Animal Feed

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to encourage British farmers to use home-grown animal feed rather than imported animal feed. [35559]

Mr Paice: The use of the most appropriate animal feed is just one of a number of policy issues associated with the sustainability of the UK livestock sector that the Government are considering, and DEFRA is currently investing in research and development to deliver the information we need for science-based alternatives to current feedstuffs. The Government will continue to support UK food and farming businesses in ensuring that resources needed from abroad to supplement our livestock industry are sourced sensitively and responsibly.

Animal Feed: Production

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the proportion of feed for livestock in England which is produced in the UK. [36202]

Mr Paice: DEFRA surveys collect information on the amount of raw materials and the corresponding amount of compound animal feed produced for Great Britain and integrated poultry feed for UK. In both these cases, the feed is produced and used domestically. These do not distinguish between domestic and imported raw materials. For some of the raw materials such as soya cake and meal, this would have to be imported as it is not grown in the UK.

Cereals are an important element of animal feed across all livestock types, and broadly make up around 40% of feed. The remaining 60% consists of crops, such as soy, and also by-products from the food and drink industry, such as distillery dregs.

For the key cereals, such as wheat and barley, an estimate is made of the proportions of domestic and imported grain used for animal feed through the cereals balance sheet. This also includes grain which is home mixed and used on farm for feed in addition to manufactured compound feed. The balance sheet estimates indicate that the vast majority (above 96%) of wheat and barley grain used for animal feed is domestically sourced.

Links to the DEFRA surveys and the cereals balance sheet are available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/food/animalfeed/documents/mcompspn.pdf

http://www.hgca.com/document.aspx?fn=load&media_id=6793&publicationId=99

Animal Products: Imports

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has budgeted for *(a)* print press, *(b)* television, *(c)* internet and *(d)* poster material to raise awareness among the general public of the potential risks from illegal imports of products of animal origin in (i) 2010-11 and (ii) each of the next four years. [35756]

Mr Paice: DEFRA's 2010-11 budget for developing and delivering communication to raise awareness among the general public of the potential risks from illegal imports of products of animal origin is £44,475. This activity includes research to inform the development of a communication strategy, an annual rate to continue to broadcast a free-to-air TV filler (Don't Bring Me Back) and storage of leaflets and event materials prior to distribution.

For the next four years, DEFRA anticipates a budget of less than £25,000 per annum on paid-for communication about illegal imports of products of animal origin. The budget reflects the Government-wide reduction in spending on marketing and advertising campaigns.

Biofuels

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the development of crops for biomass energy generation; and whether her Department is taking steps to ensure that the cultivation of energy crops meets demand for biomass fuels. [34764]

Mr Paice: Officials at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have regular discussions with officials at the Department of Energy and Climate Change regarding the development of crops for biomass energy generation. These discussions cover a wide range of issues, including incentivising renewable energy, sustainability, energy security, business opportunities in the UK farming and forestry sectors, and delivery of the UK's targets for climate change and renewable energy.

Biofuels: Carbon Emissions

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons figures for direct carbon emissions from the combustion of fuel sources were removed from the Biomass Energy Centre website. [34763]

Mr Paice: The managers of the Biomass Energy Centre website removed the information because it became clear to them that there was some misrepresentation of this information. This was probably due to a misunderstanding of the fundamental difference between the direct carbon emissions associated with burning biomass (releasing carbon from the current carbon cycle) and fossil fuels (releasing carbon sequestered in prehistoric times). The estimates of lifecycle carbon emissions remain on the website.

Birds of Prey: Crime

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1333W, on birds of prey: crime, how many convictions there were for offences relating to persecution of birds of prey in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each year since 2000. [36130]

Richard Benyon: The following table provides information on the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for bird related offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, England and Wales, during the period 2000 to 2009 (latest available). Data held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database do not include information about the circumstances behind each case other than that which may be identified from a statute and it is not possible to identify the separate species of birds as given in the statute. Therefore it is not possible to say how many convictions related specifically to birds of prey.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned to be published in the spring.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the relevant Administrations.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for bird related offences, England and Wales, 2000 to 2009[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
England											
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 8(3)(a) & 21(1), and 8(3)(b) & 21(1)	Protection of captive birds	4	3	2	—	1	2	—	3	2	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 1(1)(a), 1(4) & 21(1), and 1(5)(b) & 21(1)	Protection of wild birds	11	15	9	18	47	21	84	18	15	10
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 1(1)(b), 1(4) & 21(1), and 1(1)(c) 1(4) & 21(1)	Protection of nests and eggs of wild birds	6	17	6	5	7	9	11	2	4	4
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3(1)(a)	Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3(1)(a)	Protection of the nests and eggs of wild birds in sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3(1)(b)	Illegal entry into bird sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 5(1)(b) & 21(1), 5(1)(c) & 21(1), 5(1)(d) & 21(1), 5(1)(e) & 21(1), and 5(1)(f) & 21(1)	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds	1	2	4	2	1	3	4	1	—	4
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 6(1)(a) & 6(4) & 21(1), 6(1)(a) 21(1), 6(1)(b) & 6(4) & 21(1), 6(1)(b) & 21(1), 6(2)(a) 6(4) & 21(1), 6(2)(a) 21(1), 6(2)(b) 6(4) & 21(1), 6(3) 6(4) & 21(1), 6(3) & 21(1)	Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc.	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 7(3)(a) & 21(1), 7(3)(b) & 21(1), 7(4)(a) & 21(1), and 7(4)(b) & 21(1)	Registration etc. of certain captive birds	1	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total England		26	38	23	28	58	35	100	24	22	22

Statute	*Offence description*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]	*2009*
Wales[2]											
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 8(3)(a) & 21(1), and 8(3)(b) & 21(1)	Protection of captive birds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 1(1)(a), 1(4) & 21(1), and 1(5)(b) & 21(1)	Protection of wild birds	4	2	2	2	5	3	3	3	3	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 1(1)(b), 1(4) & 21(1), and 1(1)(c).1(4) & 21(1)	Protection of nests and eggs of wild birds	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3(1)(a)	Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3(1)(a)	Protection of the nests and eggs of wild birds in sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 3(1)(b)	Illegal entry into bird sanctuaries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 5(1)(b) & 21(1), 5(1)(c) & 21(1), 5(1)(d) & 21(1), 5(1)(e) & 21(1), and 5(1)(f) & 21(1)	Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 6(1)(a) & 6(4) & 21(1), 6(1)(a) & 21(1), 6(1)(b) & 6(4) & 21(1), 6(1)(b) & 21(1), 6(2)(a) & 6(4) & 21(1), 6(2)(a) & 21(1), 6(2)(b) 6(4) & 1(1), 6(3) 6(4) & 21(1), 6(3) & 21(1)	Sale etc. of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 7(3)(a) & 21(1), 7(3)(b) & 21(1), 7(4)(a) & 21(1), and 7(4)(b) & 21(1)	Registration etc. of certain captive birds	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Wales		6	3	3	5	6	3	3	4	4	2
Total England and Wales		32	41	26	33	64	38	103	28	26	24

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[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1333W, on birds of prey: crime, how many incidents of illegal *(a)* poisoning, *(b)* shooting, *(c)* trapping and *(d)* nest destruction were recorded in (i) England,

(ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland in respect of each of the five priority raptor species in each year since 2000. [36135]

Richard Benyon: Comprehensive information is not held centrally. However many UK police forces provide the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU) with information about incidents occurring in their areas. The NWCU holds data for the two years from 1 September 2008 as follows:

Year One (1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009)

Sub category of incident	*Species*	*England*	*PSNI*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Grand total*
Confirmed Poisoning	Golden Eagle	—	—	2	—	2
	Red kite	1	—	1	2	4
	White Tailed Sea Eagle	—	—	1	—	1
Confirmed Poisoning Total		1	—	4	2	7
Nest Disturbance	Golden Eagle	—	—	1	—	1
	Goshawk	1	—	—	1	2
	Hen Harrier	—	—	1	—	1
	Red kite	—	1	1	—	2
Nest Disturbance Total		1	1	3	1	6
Shooting	Hen Harrier	1	—	—	—	1
Shooting Total		1	—	—	—	1
Traps/Snares	Red kite	—	—	1	—	1
Traps/Snares Total		—	—	1	—	1
Unconfirmed Poisoning	Goshawk	1	—	—	—	1
	Red kite	2	1	1	—	4
Unconfirmed Poisoning Total		3	1	1	—	5
Grand Total		6	2	9	3	20

Year Two (1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010)

Sub category of incident	*Species*	*England*	*PSNI*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Grand total*
Confirmed Poisoning	Golden Eagle	—	—	2	—	2
	Red kite	3	1	5	2	11
Confirmed Poisoning Total		3	1	7	2	13
Nest Disturbance	Golden Eagle	—	—	3	—	3
	Goshawk	2	—	—	—	2
	Hen Harrier	—	—	2	—	2
	Red kite	—	—	—	1	1
	White Tailed Sea Eagle	—	—	1	—	1
Nest Disturbance Total		2	—	6	1	9
Shooting	Red kite	2	—	1	—	3
	White Tailed Sea Eagle	—	1	—	—	1
Shooting Total		2	1	1	—	4
Unconfirmed Poisoning	Red kite	1	—	1	1	3
Unconfirmed Poisoning Total		1	—	1	1	3
Grand Total		8	2	15	4	29

Notes:

1. Not all police forces send information to the NWCU.
2. Information sent by the other organisations (e.g. RSPB) is not included.
3. Two years' information is insufficient to extrapolate any accurate trends.

Common Agricultural Policy

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on negotiations on the draft common agricultural policy regulation for 2011. [36229]

Mr Paice: It is unclear exactly what the question is referring to. There are many regulations relating to the common agricultural policy (CAP) being modified in 2011 to bring them into line with revised comitology arrangements introduced by the Lisbon treaty. The UK will continue to work with the European Commission to ensure these technical changes are adopted in the most sensible manner.

If, however, the question is concerning the future of the CAP for the period 2014-20, we anticipate the Commission will release legislative proposals in the summer. The UK wants to see a competitive, thriving and sustainable EU agriculture and food sector that is able to rise to the challenges and opportunities of the future. We therefore need ambitious reform of the CAP to deliver good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment.

Common Agricultural Policy: Imported Soy

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the position of imported soy during forthcoming negotiations on the common agricultural policy. [35514]

Mr Paice: The Government are committed to ensuring that we have a thriving and sustainable livestock sector in the UK and welcome views on the forthcoming common agricultural policy negotiations, particularly as discussions progress in the run up to the Commission producing draft regulations in the summer.

The importation of soy is just one of a number of policy issues associated with the sustainability of the UK livestock sector that the Government will consider during negotiations, and DEFRA is currently investing in research and development to deliver the information we need for science-based alternatives to its use as a feedstuff. Importantly, the issues go much further than feeding livestock alone, as two-thirds of manufactured food products contain ingredients or derivatives made from soy.

Common Agricultural Policy: Reform

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on the development of an agreed UK negotiating position on common agricultural policy reform which takes into account the opinions of the devolved administrations; [35896]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the devolved administrations on common agricultural policy reform. [35897]

Mr Paice: I am committed to working closely with the devolved Administrations (DAs) and both the Secretary of State and I have met with them several times to discuss the emerging UK position on reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP). Our forthcoming response to the Commission's CAP Communication, about which the Secretary of State wrote to her ministerial counterparts earlier in January, will reflect many of the DAs' concerns. It is important that the UK position on CAP highlights the need for the sort of ambitious reform that will enable farmers to adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Domestic Biomass Burners: Carbon Emissions

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what her policy is on amending emission limits on domestic biomass burners under 20MW to 30g/GJ for particulates and 150g/GJ for NOx; [36291]

(2) what steps she is taking to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen from domestic biomass boilers through *(a)* the use of abatement equipment and *(b)* other means. [36292]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is in discussion with the Department of Energy and Climate Change over the establishment of emission limits for particulates and nitrogen oxides where biomass combustion is incentivised.

Flood Control: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much will be distributed to local authorities for flood prevention and protection through the local government formula grant in each of the next four financial years. [35757]

Richard Benyon: Formula grant is an "unhypothecated block grant". This means that authorities are free to spend it on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service, including flood prevention and protection. Floor damping is the process of guaranteeing that no authority will receive more than a maximum percentage decrease in grant year-on-year on a like-for-like basis; in order to pay for this changes above the floor are scaled back for other authorities.

Floods

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what review her Department has undertaken to identify those areas of the UK that are at risk of flooding. [35244]

Richard Benyon: The floods directive, as transposed by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 in England and Wales, requires member states to identify areas that are at potentially significant risk of flooding. Flood hazard and flood risk maps and management plans must then be prepared for these areas.

Given that the Environment Agency already holds equivalent maps and plans for main rivers and coastal flood risk, our work focused on local sources of flooding, for which responsibility lies with lead local flood authorities. To assist local authorities in determining flood risk areas, DEFRA has identified indicative areas which local authorities must then review.

The method for identifying indicative risk areas was developed in consultation with the Environment Agency, Welsh Assembly Government, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association, drawing on both the Environment Agency's flood maps for surface water and a database of assets at risk. This established areas where 200 people, two or more critical services or 20 or more businesses are at risk of flooding. Clusters of these areas were identified and the results were then ranked to determine the highest risk areas. A threshold of 30,000 people at risk was applied to ensure that the subsequent mapping and planning phases are achievable and not too onerous.

The result was ten indicative flood risk areas within England, which account for 33% of the national surface water risk. Eight such areas have been identified in Wales.

A similar approach has been applied in Northern Ireland, and Scotland is in the process of identifying an appropriate methodology.

Food: Consumption

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on consumption in the UK of *(a)* intensively produced meat and *(b)* imported soy feeds. [36091]

Mr Paice: The Government believes there is a place for sustainable intensification in food production. The world needs more food, at less cost to the environment. Global food security requires the UK, and other Governments in the developed world, to help farmers adopt methods of sustainable intensification. This can help to build the farming practices that will provide the abundant food we need for the future.

The importation of soy is just one of a number of policy issues associated with the sustainability of the UK livestock sector that the Government are considering, and DEFRA is currently investing in research and development to deliver the information we need for science-based alternatives to its use as a feedstuff. Importantly, the issues go much further than feeding livestock alone, as two-thirds of manufactured food products contain ingredients or derivatives made from soy.

Forests

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations her Department has received on the proposed disposal of the public forest estate to date; what categories her Department uses to classify such representations; and whether representations which are based on a common pro forma letter submitted by individual members of the public to her Department are recorded as individual representations. [36234]

Mr Paice: Since the beginning of October last year we have received just over 800 representations on the sale of the public forest estate.

The categories of correspondence are: letters and emails received directly from members of the public; letters and emails to Ministers from MPs, often on behalf of their constituents; and letters and emails to Ministers from interested organisations. These representations have all been recorded individually.

In addition, we have received around 2,700 campaign emails from Forest.org. These have also been recorded individually.

Local Authorities: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans her Department has to enhance the powers of local councils to take action against noisy neighbours. [35537]

Richard Benyon: I believe the legislative duties and powers available, including those under the statutory nuisance provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1990, are broadly sufficient to enable local councils to take action against noisy neighbours. However, as part of the implementation of the Noise Policy Statement for England, published in 2010, DEFRA officials are working with those at the Home Office on the review of the tools and powers available to address antisocial behaviour.

Midland Pig Producers

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on farming practices at Midland Pig Producers, Foston, Derbyshire. [36123]

Mr Paice: We have received no recent representations on farming practices at Midlands Pig Producers.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has *(a)* received an application for and *(b)* granted funding under (i) the Rural Development Programme for England and (ii) any other of her Department's programmes in respect of the proposed large-scale intensive pig farm in Foston, Derbyshire. [36199]

Mr Paice: Neither DEFRA, nor any of the regional development agencies, has received an application or granted funding under either the RDPE, or any of the Department's other support arrangements, for a large-scale intensive pig farm at Foston.

Pigs: Animal Welfare

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect on animal welfare of keeping pigs in *(a)* very large herds and *(b)* herds kept largely under a roof; [36121]

(2) what her policy is on intensive pig farming; [36125]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of health and welfare standards applicable to large-scale pig farms in which pigs are housed indoors all year round; [36126]

(4) what assessment she has made of the implications for animal welfare of proposed large-scale intensive pig farms; [36128]

(5) what her policy is on proposals to establish large-scale intensive pig farms. [36129]

Mr Paice: Operational pig farms must comply with all the relevant legislation, including comprehensive environmental and animal welfare legislation, which will apply equally to all livestock farms whatever the size of unit or system of production. Planning proposals for intensive pig farming units are for the relevant planning authorities to examine.

It is important to recognise that poor welfare may occur in both intensive and extensive systems. Increasing the size of herds does not mean reducing animal welfare. More important factors are the design and construction of the units and the level of stockmanship. This is echoed in the current scientific advice from the Farm Animal Welfare Council, that the most significant influence on the welfare of livestock is the stock-keeper, not the system in which it is reared.

DEFRA has not made any further assessment of the implications for animal welfare of proposed large-scale intensive pig farms.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of intensive pig farms on (i) traditional pig farmers, (ii) local rural economies and (iii) rural management. [36124]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not commissioned or evaluated any specific research into these aspects of intensive indoor pig production. There is, however, ongoing research into other aspects, including animal welfare. The UK pig industry has some of the highest standards of animal welfare within the European Union.

In line with the progressive reform of the common agricultural policy, it is important for the UK pig sector to compete globally. We therefore welcome innovative and entrepreneurial efforts by farmers to improve their competitiveness while protecting the environment and meeting animal welfare standards. Pig farms must comply with all the relevant legislation, including comprehensive environmental and animal welfare legislation, whatever the size of unit or system of production.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that future proposals for intensive pig farming *(a)* are examined by her Department, *(b)* take account of the views of local residents and *(c)* do not adversely affect the natural environment. [36127]

Mr Paice: Planning proposals for intensive pig farming units are for the relevant planning authorities to examine. In the assessment of planning applications for agriculture development proposals, it is a matter for the relevant planning authority to take account of the views of local residents and the natural environment.

River Thames: Tunnels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the value for money of the Thames Water proposal for the construction of a second Thames tunnel; [35958]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the environmental effects of the Thames Water proposal for the construction of a second Thames tunnel; [35959]

(3) what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of a second Thames tunnel; [35961]

(4) what recent assessment she has made of the merits of a second Thames tunnel to reduce the number of sewer overflows into the River Thames. [35963]

Richard Benyon: I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 7 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS regarding sewer overflows in the River Thames. Since that statement in support of a tunnel-based solution to the problem of excessive sewer overflows into the Thames, we have been working with Ofwat to scrutinise and review the costs of the project to ensure that it continues to represent value for money. I intend to publish an updated impact assessment which will review the costs and benefits of the project in the summer.

This Department also published a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) for Waste Water in November 2010, which sets out the Government's policy for the provision of major waste water infrastructure, including the Thames Tunnel. The NPS is accompanied by an Appraisal of Sustainability and a Habitats Regulation Assessment, both of which consider the potential environmental impacts of the Thames Tunnel. The public consultation closes on 22 February and the documents can be found on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-water/index.htm

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* Thames Water, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* Ofwat on the (i) design, (ii) regulatory process and (iii) planning process for the construction of a second Thames tunnel. [35960]

Richard Benyon: Ministers have regular discussions with water companies (including Thames Water), the Environment Agency and Ofwat on a range of issues, including the Thames tunnel. Officials have been working closely with all three organisations to take forward the commitment in my written statement to the House of 7 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 9-10WS, that I would want to be assured before construction starts that any final proposal delivers proper value for money

Sewers: EU Law

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the UK's capacity to meet its obligations in Greater London under the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. [35962]

Richard Benyon: The five year 'Thames Tideway Strategic Study' reported to Government in 2005 and included an assessment of potential solutions both to meet water quality objectives for the Thames Tideway area, and to ensure the requirements of the urban waste water treatment directive continue to be met. It concluded that the frequency and volume of discharges of untreated waste water from combined sewer overflows into the River Thames should be reduced.

I refer my hon. Friend to my written statement of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 9-10WS, regarding sewer overflows in the River Thames, which confirmed the Government's support for a tunnel-based solution to the problems in the Thames.

Water: Employment

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake any studies on the effects of the Asset Management Period cycle on levels of employment within the water industry and its supply chain; and if she will make a statement. [36270]

Richard Benyon: Ofwat, as the independent economic regulator for the water sector, is responsible for setting water price limits every five years. Within this framework, water and sewerage companies are responsible for decisions on how they manage their investment programme.

The water industry has provided evidence on the effect of Ofwat's price controls to the current review of Ofwat, led by David Gray. This review will report to Ministers in March.

Ofwat itself is currently reviewing the process of price setting as part of the Future Price Limits project. This project will look at the effects of the regulatory cycles on all stakeholders, including those in the supply chain.

Wood

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to implement the provisions of the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation. [35755]

Mr Paice: In accordance with the provisions of Regulation, we will implement the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation by 3 March 2013. Over the next 18 months, detailed implementing regulations must be agreed between the European Commission and member states. This timeline was agreed to allow both governments and the timber industry across member states sufficient time to prepare for the entry into force of the Regulation.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36182]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has let the following contracts using the Single Tender Procedure with only the last one listed being in excess of the EU public procurement threshold. As a Research and Development project it is exempt from the full EU Procurement Rules; the monetary value of the project is £210,000.

Below EU threshold

1. Aggregating, presenting and valuing the impacts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
2. National Energy Efficiency Database (NEED) data loading services
3. Provision of database containing information on retail filling stations
4. Stakeholder Engagement Policy/Project Team Support Package
5. DECC Emergency Response Exercise Programme
6. Contribution to three IEA Annexes on Heat Pumps
7. International Climate Change Consultant
8. Electronic Radar Tool to Support Permitted Development for Micro/Small Wind
9. Technical advisory, assessment and verification services—ETF Offshore Wind Grants scheme
10. National Energy Efficiency Database (NEED) Valuation Office Agency Property Data Analysis
11. DECC contribution to 2nd year of EST Heat Pump Field Trials
12. Update of renewable heat model
13. UK Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Improvement Programme.

Electricity: Meters

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what information his Department holds on the number of households that have been prevented from changing from paying their electricity costs by pre-payment meter to an alternative means of payment as a result of deposit charges; [35968]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of families that have paid deposit charges in order to change the payment of their electricity costs from a pre-payment meter to an alternative means of payment. [35969]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold the information requested. To meet its principal duty to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem collects relevant information on prepayment meter customers but I understand it does not have the specific data requested.

Under their supply licence, energy suppliers must not require a customer to pay a security deposit if it is unreasonable in all the circumstances of the case. The licence also requires that a security deposit must not exceed a reasonable amount. Customers opting to pay by prepayment meter must not be required to pay a deposit.

Electricity: Wind Power

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contribution energy from wind power generation made to the electricity supply during December 2010. [36290]

Charles Hendry: DECC publishes data on electricity generation from all sources, including wind power, on a quarterly basis. Figures for the last quarter of 2010, which will show the proportion of electrical energy supplied by all UK wind generation, will be published in March. DECC's latest quarterly figures show that in Q3 2010 all UK wind farms contributed 3.5% of UK electricity generation.

Just under half of all UK wind capacity is operationally metered by national grid to assist in balancing the system. From these data, in December 2010, operationally metered wind generation contributed 1.1% of electrical energy supplied through the national grid. Given that less than half of total UK wind capacity is operationally metered, this percentage will significantly under-state DECC's final figure for wind's share of all generation in Q4 2010, due to be published on 31 March 2011.

Energy: Housing

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase the energy efficiency of *(a)* social rented, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private rented homes; and if he will make a statement. [33597]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal has the potential to increase the energy efficiency of homes across all housing sectors. It will enable a range of innovative energy efficiency finance packages for landlords and tenants alike.

The social housing sector, including housing associations, has made the biggest gains in energy efficiency in recent years. Further to this, the sector will be able to benefit from the Green Deal and associated obligation on energy companies.

The private rented sector will also be able to take advantage of the Green Deal and future obligation on energy companies. In addition, we are seeking powers in the forthcoming Energy Bill that, from 2015, could require landlords to make reasonable energy efficiency improvements to their properties. These powers will only be used if we do not see voluntary improvements under the forthcoming Green Deal.

Energy: Regulation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received from Ofgem on the extent of its powers to regulate tariffs and prices in the domestic energy supply sector. [35740]

Charles Hendry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not received any such representations. Ofgem's principal duty is to protect the interests of consumers and it has wide discretion to propose modifications to the licences of energy companies to achieve this.

Fuel Oil: Prices

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes in the price of heating oil on elderly and vulnerable families in rural areas. [33883]

Gregory Barker: Government acknowledge that heating oil prices have risen and will lead to higher energy bills for households that use it. Heating oil is a seasonal product, and its prices vary over the course of the year.

The Government are committed to helping those households that are in fuel poverty. We recognise the need to help more of the most vulnerable to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost.

From April 2011, the Warm Home Discount policy will require energy suppliers to provide financial support with energy bills to more of the most vulnerable and fuel poor households. The total level of support under the scheme will be up to £250 million in 2011-12 rising to up to £310 million in 2014-15. We launched a consultation on the Warm Home Discount on 2 December which focuses on the detailed structure of the support scheme, including who should be eligible for assistance and how they will be targeted.

From 2013, support for heating and insulation for the most vulnerable will be delivered through the Green Deal for energy efficiency and a new supplier obligation on energy companies. The Green Deal is a key element of our policy to improve household energy efficiency. It will help protect people against price rises through greater energy saving, with special support for the most vulnerable.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many new ground-source heat exchange pumps were commissioned in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007, *(d)* 2008 and *(e)* 2009. [33988]

Gregory Barker: The Department does not hold information on the overall number of ground-source heat pumps (GSHP) fitted in the UK. These works are carried out by private contractors who have no obligation to inform the Government.

Under the previous Government grant programme, (Low Carbon Buildings Programme), the following numbers of ground-source heat pumps grants were awarded for properties between 2005-09.

	Number of grants	*Value of grants (£)*
2005	0	0
2006	19	22,800
2007	202	343,584
2008	255	1,530,012
2009	374	3,203,397
Total	850	5,099,793

Methane: Natural Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has made a recent assessment of the *(a)* legislative, *(b)* regulatory and *(c)* guidance framework for the safe exploration of (i) coalbed methane and (ii) shale gas as an energy source. [34955]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

HSE has regulatory responsibility for the safety of these activities and so as Minister responsible for Health and Safety I am providing a response to this question. For all UK oil and gas exploration and development activities, including coal bed methane and shale gas, there is a comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure that operations are properly licensed and controlled. This includes regulations administered by the Health and Safety Executive, who deal with the process safety aspects of this work. These include the Offshore Installations and Wells (Design and Construction, etc) Regulations 1996 (DCR), which are concerned with the integrity of the well for its full lifecycle. The Health and Safety Executive also gives advice to industry on how to comply with these safety regulations. Legislation, regulatory inspection programmes and guidance are kept under review and adapted where necessary to take account of new technologies and industry practices, and new knowledge on hazards and risks.

Nuclear Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the contribution by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PUSS) to House of Lords Grand Committee, *Official Report*, column GC176, on the draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Generation, when the review of nuclear policy referred to was commissioned; if he will publish the report of the review; which body is assisting the PUSS in his conduct of the review; whether the review was put out for tender; whether any upper limit was placed on the cost of conducting the review; and when he expects to receive the report of the review. [36274]

Charles Hendry: Security arrangements are kept under constant review as part of a continuous process to ensure existing arrangements are robust and effective.

I hope the hon. Member will understand that the need to ensure national security means that there are inevitably restrictions on what the Government can say publicly about certain matters relating to various aspects of the national security framework.

Warm Front Scheme

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment his Department has made of the performance of Eaga plc in managing the Warm Front scheme; and if he will make a statement. [36172]

Gregory Barker: The Department has Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in place to monitor Eaga's performance in managing Warm Front delivery. Regular meetings are held at which performance against KPIs is reviewed. These reviews have shown that over the past three years Eaga have largely met their KPIs. In addition, the Department has engaged WYG, independent consultants and quality assessors, to audit Eaga's performance. Findings from these reviews are published on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/fuel_poverty/warm_front/vfm/vfm.aspx

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Big Society Initiative

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role he expects civic societies to play as potential capacity builders in support of the Big Society initiative. [35549]

Andrew Stunell: The Government's Big Society agenda envisages a significantly enhanced role for civil society, including the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, in helping local people and organisations to take more power and responsibility over their lives and neighbourhoods. As part of this, civic societies can play an essential voluntary role in helping individuals to take action to improve the quality of their life through the place where they live.

They will have an important role to play in helping communities develop skills, in designing and delivering services, and encouraging communities to take advantage of far-reaching new rights contained in the Localism Bill, such as the Right to Buy community assets and the Right to Challenge the way public services are run.

In recognition of this role, my Department has provided a transitional grant to Civic Voice, the national umbrella organisation for civic societies. This transitional grant will support Civic Voice to help bridge the gap to self-funding to enable the movement to build the momentum of support required to put it on to a self-reliant and sustainable footing and support the Government's goal of building a Big Society.

Departmental Communications

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he has taken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35794]

Robert Neill: The use of clear language is essential if people are to understand and influence Government policy. My Department aims to use straightforward language as a matter of course. In recent months, the Department has published plain English guides to the Local Government Finance Settlement and to the Localism Bill. It has begun a review of over 1,000 pages of cumbersome planning policy statements and guidance with the aim of producing a single, concise document setting out the Government's priorities for the planning system in England.

We are also seeking to minimise the use of TLAs (three letter abbreviations) in our communications.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meals at venues outside his Department have been provided from the public purse for *(a)* each Minister in his Department and *(b)* guests of his Department since 6 May 2010. [30699]

Robert Neill: No taxpayers' money has been spent on such items since 6 May.

In comparison, £2,400 was spent on meals at venues outside the Department at events involving DCLG Ministers in the final two years of the previous Administration.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on film production including the filming of speeches since May 2010. [34301]

Robert Neill: All film production has been carried out internally by staff in the Department's Communications Directorate and no spend has been made with any external production company.

The zero spend with external production companies since May 2010 compares with spend of £42,742 in 2008-09 and £144,660.50 in 2009-10.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on wine since May 2010. [34486]

Robert Neill: Since May 2010 the Department has spent £796.55 on wine through its facilities management supplier.

Wine was supplied in connection with official functions and the expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

To assist the hon. Member to place this in context records are only available from December 2008 but for the periods December 2008 to March 2009 the Department spent £1,584.85 and from April 2009 until March 2010 spent £3,932.80 on wine at official functions.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on newspapers and magazines since May 2010. [34526]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show that the Department has spent £67,435 on newspapers and magazines with its preferred suppliers since May 2010.

Since May 2010, the Department has consolidated the seven separate sets of national newspapers previously received by the ministerial and special adviser offices to a single shared set of papers, delivering over £15,000 of ongoing revenue savings.

In addition, the Department's Communications Directorate has undertaken a review that has led to a reduction in the number of magazines and journals it subscribes to and a move to a single supplier, realising further annual savings of approximately £6,000.

For the last two financial years the Department spent the following:

2008-09: £136,892

2009-10: £113,308.

Departmental Responsibilities

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which new *(a)* units and *(b)* teams have been established in his Department since May 2010; and what the (i) name, (ii) purpose, (iii) staffing level and (iv) annual running cost of each is. [34323]

Robert Neill: Two new teams have been established since 1 May 2010.

The Digital Delivery and Transparency team delivers the corporate transparency action plan via the Public Data and Transparency programme board, and develops policy on local government transparency, local spending reports and digital delivery agenda. There were 8.2 (full time equivalent) staff in post in this team at the end of December. The annual running costs over the full 12 months is next year forecast to be £554,000. Online transparency has the potential to deliver real and tangible saving to the public purse.

The London Team has ownership of London reforms generally including elements within the Localism Bill and management of London-inspired Private Bills. It is the central point of co-ordination for relationships with the GLA, London councils and other agencies where necessary, and it also holds responsibility for DCLG's locally focussed business in London. There were 6.4 (full time equivalent) staff in post in this team at the end of December. The annual running costs over the full 12 months is next year forecast to be £382,000. Its creation should be taken in the context of the abolition of the Government Office for London, which will decentralise power and save taxpayers' money.

DCLG is currently undergoing a major restructuring exercise to focus on meeting the needs of the new government. This restructuring as well the creation of the new teams described above has not involved the recruitment of any new staff to the civil service and therefore no overall addition to public cost.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the most recent previous employment was of senior staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department since May 2010. [34300]

Robert Neill: Since May 2010, no new fixed-term appointments of any staff, including senior civil servants, have been made.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* total salary cost and *(b)* average salary is of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department. [34528]

Robert Neill: The total salary and average salary costs of staff employed on fixed-term contracts, as at 31 December 2010, in the Department for Communities and Local Government are as follows:

Total salary costs: £1,138,313

Number of staff: 40

Average (mean) salary: £28,458.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department; and what their job titles are. [34529]

Robert Neill: As at 31 December 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government employed 40 staff (38.8 FTE) on fixed-term contracts. A breakdown of their job titles is detailed as follows:

24 Administrative Officers

One Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser

Three Departmental Advisers (0.8 FTE)

Five Executive and Higher Executive Officers

Seven Legal and Statistical Officers

As I outlined in my answer to the hon. Member in relation to PQ 34300, these appointments and contracts were made during the last administration.

Faithwise Ltd: Contracts

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's consultancy contract with Faithwise Ltd. [20115]

Robert Neill: A copy of the original contract, and of its extension to 1 January 2010, has been placed in the Library of the House. The contract was further extended by agreement until 31 March 2010.

Fire Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire stations have closed in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [36108]

Robert Neill: Numbers of fire station closures are not held centrally. However total numbers of fire stations are collected for each fire and rescue authority annually. The latest available figures show that the total number of fire stations in England on 31 March 2010 was 1,433, unchanged from 2009.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the proposed timetable for savings to be made by local fire services; and if he will make a statement. [36109]

Robert Neill: We have back-loaded the largest savings in formula grant to the latter years in order to give fire and rescue authorities time to make the necessary changes without affecting the quality and breadth of services they provide to their communities. Overall, single purpose fire and rescue authorities will see a reduction in their revenue spending power, taking into account grants from central Government and council tax of 2.2% in 2011-12 and 0.5% in 2012-13.

The setting of budgets and the delivery of fire services are a local matter, determined by individual fire and rescue authorities.

Fire Services: Canvey Island

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the effectiveness of the planned reconfiguration of fire services on Canvey Island. [35947]

Robert Neill: Operational decisions are taken by individual fire and rescue authorities as part of the integrated risk management planning process.

The Government are committed to enabling local authorities and local communities to make appropriate decisions at the local level. Fire and rescue authorities are required by the fire and rescue service national framework to have in place and maintain an integrated risk management plan which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. Each fire and rescue authority's plan enables that individual authority to decide how best to provide fire and rescue services, including prevention and protection as well as response, with resources being allocated on the basis of their evaluation of risk and where the risks are greatest. It is a requirement that the plan is subject to a full consultation with the local community before it is agreed and published, and if it is substantially revised.

Local requirements are thus determined by local people according to local circumstances.

For those reasons, it would be inappropriate for central Government to make an assessment of any changes to fire and rescue services on Canvey Island.

Fire Services: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of calls attended by fire services arose from false alarms from *(a)* automatic fire alarms and *(b)* other alarms in the latest period for which figures are available. [36110]

Robert Neill: The latest statistics for *(a)* automatic fire alarms (due to apparatus) and *(b)* other false alarms in England for 2009-10[1] are shown in the table.

Fires, non-fire incidents and false fire alarms attended by Fire and Rescue Services in England, 2009-10[1]

	Number of incidents	*Percentage of grand total*
Grand total	669,185	100
Total Fires	241,533	36
Special Service (non-fire incidents)	142,527	21
Fire false alarms	285,125	43
Fire false alarm types:		
Automatic fire alarms (due to apparatus[2])	193,394	29
Good intent[3]	79,304	12
Malicious[4]	12,427	2

[1] Provisional.

[2] Due to Apparatus—call was initiated by fire alarm and/or firefighting equipment operating (including accidental initiation of alarm apparatus by a person).

[3] Good Intent—call was made in good faith in the belief that the fire and rescue service was needed to attend a fire.

[4] Malicious—a report of an incident is received by a control centre which is believed to have been made with malicious intent or with intent to cause a nuisance and where it is considered that no legitimate incident exists.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Databases, DCLG

Fire Services: Standards

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the likely effects of an increase of *(a)* two minutes, *(b)* five minutes and *(c)* 10 minutes in the response time of the first fire appliance in the event of a fire at a top tier control of major hazards regulated site. [35946]

Robert Neill: Emergency response is a matter for individual fire and rescue authorities under integrated risk management planning, according to local requirements and circumstances. That will include a local assessment of the optimum response to fires at top tier control of major accidents hazards (COMAH) sites.

Fire Services: West Midlands

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the ability of West Midlands Fire Service to maintain its standard of service to vulnerable communities after the outcome of the local government finance settlement; and if he will make a statement. [36107]

Robert Neill: As the setting of budgets and the delivery of fire services are a local matter, determined by individual fire and rescue authorities, it would not be appropriate for central Government to assess west midlands service delivery.

Government: Assets

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for enabling a *(a)* community right to bid, *(b)* community right to know and *(c)* community right to buy in connection with assets owned by central Government; and if he will make a statement. [36014]

Andrew Stunell: The community right to challenge (sometimes referred to as the community right to bid) and the community right to buy (as "assets of community value") are included in the Localism Bill. The community right to challenge enables voluntary and community bodies, parish councils and local authority employees to express an interest in running a local authority service, which may trigger a procurement exercise. We will consider what other services the right may be extended to in due course.

Many of the details of the community right to buy scheme will be set out in regulations, on which we will shortly be consulting. It will give communities new powers to help them save local facilities threatened with closure by allowing local community groups, parish councils and others to nominate sites that are of particular value to the community. We will be consulting on what constitutes an asset of community value but it will include property owned by central Government, because the Bill provides that the scheme applies to the Crown. When a listed site comes up for sale, community groups will have a window of opportunity before a sale can take place, which they can use to prepare to bid for the site (eg by preparing a business case and raising funding). We envisage that the regulations will enable a local community group to enter a binding contract during the window of opportunity, giving an advantage over other potential purchasers.

We want communities to be able to use these new rights effectively, and will shortly be consulting on what support may be needed to ensure this is the case.

We are working towards making information on the central Government estate available to local people and communities, which will provide communities with information on public land so that they can hold land owners to account. The reform will enable communities to have greater influence in shaping the future of their areas.

Homelessness

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who are homeless in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* St Albans constituency. [36171]

Grant Shapps: Tables have been placed in the Library of the House providing the number of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty during the July to September quarter 2010, the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of September 2010 and rough sleeping figures for 2010, by local authority and county in England.

The data are not collected at constituency level. St Albans constituency is made up of electoral wards in St Albans and Three Rivers.

Information about local authorities' discharge of their duties under homelessness legislation is collected on quarterly PIE returns. Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to ensure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected.

Information is also collected on rough sleeping. Since 1998, only councils in areas with a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to conduct an official rough sleeper count—which meant that only 70 councils submitted information to central Government. Figures published in July 2010 showed that under this previous method, on any given night there were 440 rough sleepers in England. However, the coalition Government wanted a more complete measure of rough sleeping and when the remaining 256 councils provided estimates of the scale of the problem in their areas, this added a further estimated 807 rough sleepers—taking the national total to 1,247 rough sleepers on any given night.

Rough sleeping figures are published by the Department on the DCLG website and are given by local authority in the table at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1648099.xls

Under new guidance all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Housing: Construction

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units were built as part of each publicly-funded affordable housing scheme in Reading West constituency in each of the last 13 years; and how many such units in each scheme are reserved for key workers. [35849]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows the number of new build affordable homes delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme in the Reading local authority area for each of the last 13 years and of these those which were specifically targeted at key workers. This information is not collected by parliamentary constituency.

	National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP)[1]	*NAHP of which: key worker initiative*
1997-98	130	0
1998-99	250	0
1999-2000	60	0
2000-01	60	0
2001-02	120	0
2002-03	160	0
2003-04	120	0
2004-05	310	20

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	National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP)[1]	NAHP of which: key worker initiative
2005-06	220	130
2006-07	140	30
2007-08	360	70
2008-09	470	10
2009-10	80	0

[1] Includes homes built for social rented and affordable home ownership.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 homes.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency

The National Affordable Housing Programme provided funding for affordable home ownership schemes targeted at first time buyers who met the eligibility criteria, i.e. household income up to £60,000 and unable to buy on the open market. Between 2004-05 and 2008-09 there were specific schemes targeted towards assisting key workers into home ownership. From 2008-09 this specific ring fence was removed with all schemes being open to all first time buyers who met the eligibility criteria.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In 2009-10, for example, a total of 150 affordable homes were provided in Reading through new build, acquisition and refurbishment.

Housing: Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were placed in private rented accommodation under the prevention and relief of homelessness provisions *(a)* in England and Wales and *(b)* in each English local authority area in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) the first two quarters of 2010-11. [35815]

Grant Shapps: In 2009-10, 50,720 households in England were placed in private rented accommodation by local authorities and partner organisations through their prevention and relief activities outside the statutory homelessness framework. This includes activities involving landlord incentive schemes or activities without, such as where a local authority has built a relationship with a landlord or letting agent which enables the authority to refer households on benefit direct or on a specific accreditation scheme.

A table has been placed in the Library of the House providing the information for all local authorities.

Figures relating to the first two quarters of 2010-11 will not be available until the 'Homelessness Prevention and Relief: England 2010-11' release is published later in the year.

DCLG only holds figures for England. Figures for Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Local Government Services

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to communities that wish to take over services operated by local authorities. [36137]

Andrew Stunell: No such guidance has been issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Subject to parliamentary approval of the Localism Bill, communities will be given a right to challenge a local authority by expressing an interest in running any service for which it is responsible. The Department for Communities and Local Government will be working closely with local authorities and the voluntary and community sector to determine what guidance may be necessary to support the Community Right to Challenge.

Local Government: Redundancy

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an estimate of the number of local council employees who will be made redundant as a result of the reductions in funding for local authorities in the first year of the comprehensive spending review period. [36103]

Robert Neill: It is for individual councils to make local decisions about how their workforces are organised and managed to ensure they can deliver for local taxpayers, within the resources they have available. Decisions about managing workforce reductions in local government are rightfully for individual councils to make as employers.

Local Government: Standards

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to enable local authorities to retain a local standards committee if they wish to do so. [35032]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: The Localism Bill currently before Parliament includes provision that local authorities must maintain high standards of conduct by local authority members and co-opted members.

It is for local authorities to determine for themselves how best to maintain high standards of conduct and local authorities will be free, if they so wish, to establish standards committees.

Members will be required to continue to register and declare personal interests and will not be allowed to use their position improperly for personal gain. The Government intend that wilful failure to comply with these requirements will constitute a criminal offence.

Mayors

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will commission an independent review of the effectiveness of elected mayors; and if he will make a statement; [35899]

(2) if he will commission an independent review of the effectiveness of the Leader and Cabinet model of local authorities; and if he will make a statement; [35900]

(3) if he will commission an independent review of the effectiveness of the committee system for running local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [35901]

Robert Neill: We have no plans to commission such independent reviews.

A number of research papers and reviews on council governance models have already been published, and regard can be had to these when decisions on a council's future governance arrangements are taken.

Mobility: Expenditure

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of less expenditure by local authorities on meeting the mobility needs of under-65s living in residential care in the latest period for which figures are available. [35672]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Multiple Occupation: Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 89W, on multiple occupation: licensing, if he will assess the cost of collecting information from local authorities on how many landlords have been prosecuted under legislative provisions governing the operation of houses in multiple occupation. [35211]

Andrew Stunell: As stated in my answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 89W, information about how many landlords have been prosecuted under the legislative provisions governing the operation of houses in multiple occupation is not held centrally. The Department has no plans to begin collecting this information or to assess the cost of collection.

The Government remain committed to the goal of reducing the burdens of data reporting requirements on local government.

Playgrounds: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department provides to local authorities for the purposes of maintaining playgrounds; and if he will make a statement. [36111]

Robert Neill: Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend it on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service, including maintaining playgrounds.

Recreation Spaces

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to provide protection for urban green spaces. [34315]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister for Decentralisation, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark) to my hon. Friend the Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough (Andrew Jones) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 534.

Referendum: Neighbourhood Planning

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of holding a referendum related to neighbourhood planning; and if he will make a statement. [36552]

Robert Neill: We will be publishing an impact assessment on our neighbourhood plan proposals in due course which will outline how the changes will increase sustainable development and deliver monetised benefits to local authorities and developers.

Solar Power: Planning Permission

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change changes to planning guidance for the purposes of preventing building that would have the effect of blocking light from reaching photovoltaic cell arrays fitted to existing properties; and if he will make a statement. [36002]

Robert Neill: National planning policy on climate change already encourages planning authorities to consider the impact of new building on existing properties so as to avoid prejudicing their renewable energy supply. We are working with the Department for Energy and Climate Change and other Departments on the new national planning policy framework. This will cover all forms of development and set out the Government's national economic, environmental and social priorities, including climate change.

Voluntary Organisations: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with Barnsley metropolitan borough council on *(a)* local authority funding for the voluntary sector in Barnsley East constituency and *(b)* implementation of the Government's Big Society initiative. [36102]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has had no direct discussions with Barnsley metropolitan council on funding for the voluntary sector.

We are supporting Barnsley to develop a small area budget and Local Integrated Services approach in Thurnscoe, which will give residents more influence and control over their local public services. This is part of the Government's work to develop Community Budgets.

In December 2010 the Kendray Initiative, based in Barnsley, was awarded the Prime Minister's Big Society Award in recognition of their work to transform the local community.

An officer from Barnsley took part in a roundtable discussion on the development and implementation of decentralisation in Leeds on 20 December 2010. This was an event for councils across Yorkshire and Humberside.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men he has appointed to public duties since May 2010; [35408]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35430]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have made 14 unpaid public appointments (including one joint appointment with the Prime Minister) since May 2010. Details of these appointments can be found on

http://www.dpm.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news

and

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what single tender contracts the Government Equalities Office has awarded since her appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36195]

Lynne Featherstone: The following single tender contracts have been awarded by the Government Equalities Office since 12 May 2010:

Supplier	*Nature of contract awarded*
Citizen's Advice Bureau	[1] Production of guides, distribution and associated training to support the implementation of the Equality Act 2010
British Chambers of Commerce	[1]—
Equality and Diversity Forum	[1]—
Queen's Counsel	Legal Advice

[1] Indicates a brace.

The monetary value of the contracts was below the EU public procurement threshold.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by the Government Equalities Office since May 2010. [35403]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has made no public appointments since May 2010.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Business Interests

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether his Department publishes a register of interests for the Civil Service. [36145]

Mr Maude: The "Civil Service Management Code" requires civil servants to declare to their department any relevant interests which they would be able to further as a result of their official duties.

Relevant interests for civil servants who are members of departmental management boards are available as part of a Department's annual report and accounts.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34585]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is working towards achieving a space allocation per employee (full-time equivalent) of 10 sq m. The Cabinet Office supports measures to improve work/life balance, including flexible working. Flexible working incorporates a wide variety of working patterns. Home working policies and the provision of access to communications while staff are working at home support this commitment. Hot desking is not currently adopted formally across the Department although as part of an ongoing estate rationalisation programme this is expected to be rolled out more widely. Information on the number of employees on average per desk is not held but information on office space utilisation in the Cabinet Office (including on space per full-time equivalent) is available in the annual State of the Estate Reports

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/efficiency_documents_better_asset_management.asp

Lone Parents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of families with children were headed by a single parent in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency in each year for which figures are available. [35797]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of families with children were headed by a single parent in each (a) local authority area and (b) constituency in each year for which figures are available. (35797)

The number and type of families in areas of the UK can be estimated using the Annual Population Survey (APS). Data are available for 2004 to 2009. As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty which increases as the size of the geography presented becomes smaller. As a result year on year fluctuations do not necessarily represent a significant change in the true estimate.

Lone parent families with at least one dependent child as a percentage of all families with at least one dependent child are shown in the attached tables. A lone parent family is a lone parent living with his or her never-married children, providing that these children have no partners or children of their own living with them. Dependent children are children living with their parent(s) aged under 16, or aged 16 to 18 in full-time education.

Copies of Tables 1-3 have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Table 1 shows the data by local authority for 2004 to 2009; Table 2 shows the data for 2004 to 2008 based on 2005 parliamentary constituency boundaries; and Table 3 shows the data for 2009 based on 2010 parliamentary constituency boundaries. Tables 2 and 3 are not directly comparable due to boundary changes.

NDPBs: Finance

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the budget is of each non-departmental public body in the current financial year. [36016]

Mr Maude: Information on the size, spend and Government funding of the non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) sector is published in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". The latest published data show that as at 31 March 2009 there were 766 NDPBs. These spent over £46 billion, of which over £38 billion was directly funded by the Government. Data for 2010 will be published shortly. More detailed information is published in Departments' reports on the NDPBs which they sponsor and in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether as part of its review of non-departmental public bodies, he plans to publish details on how the Cabinet Office's tests have been applied to all public bodies that are still under review. [35150]

Mr Maude: I plan to release an update to my written ministerial statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 26WS, in due course.

Public Bodies

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criteria apply in connection with his Department's review of public bodies. [35467]

Mr Maude: The coalition Government are committed to increasing the accountability of public bodies, and this involves reducing their number and their cost to the taxpayer.

To take this work forward, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury worked closely with Departments to look at all public bodies to make decisions about whether the functions they carry out should continue. Where it was decided that a function should continue, we applied three tests in order to assess whether it should continue to be carried out by a pubic body:

does that body perform a technical function?

does it need to be politically impartial?

does it act independently to establish facts?

Public Sector: Redundancy

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate the proportion of those made redundant in the public sector during the comprehensive spending review period who will be aged 50 or over at the time of being made redundant; and if he will make a statement. [35145]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) published, as part of the "Economic and Fiscal Outlook" on 29 November 2010, projections for general government employment to 2015-16, which can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/econ_fiscal_outlook_291110.pdf

The OBR has not published forecasts for individual age groups. It will be for individual employers to determine the exact work force implications of their settlements.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Swindon

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to assist employers to take on apprentices in North Swindon constituency. [36139]

Mr Hayes: We are committed to expanding the apprenticeship programme nationally and we are determined to make it easier for employers of all sizes and in all regions to take on apprentices. In England, we have increased funding for apprenticeships to over £1.4 billion in the 2011-12 financial year to train over 300,000 apprentices (at all ages).

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) are supporting the Plan 500* initiative, which seeks to improve employer engagement across Swindon. As part of this initiative they are supporting the Swindon business show to encourage employers to take on apprentices, and making some 150 apprenticeship vacancies available to young people in the area who are not in education, employment or training. NAS are also working with Business Link to promote a 'Meet the Apprentice' event and working with the local Apprenticeship Training Association (South West Apprenticeship Company (SWAC) to assist local employers to take on apprentices in the Swindon area.

Driving Instruction: Qualifications

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many professional and career development loans were made to students resident in each local authority area to facilitate study for national vocational qualifications or other qualifications to obtain registration on the Approved Driving Instructor Register in each of the last five years. [35384]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Department does not hold specific information in relation to the breakdown of Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDL) per local authority area, or the type of qualification undertaken with a PCDL to achieve an approved driving instructor qualification. Current available data over the last five years, including take-up in Scotland, illustrate that around 900 loans were accessed in pursuit of driving instructor courses. This is broken down by calendar years as:

2006: 554;

2007: 191;

2008: 42;

2009: 37; and

2010: 55.

There are no specific national vocational qualifications or other qualifications which lead to registration on the Approved Driving Instructor Register. To register, applicants must pass the Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) exams.

Email: Spam

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department is taking steps to tackle fraudulent spam emails claiming to be from the Student Loans Company. [36170]

Mr Willetts: The Student Loans Company (SLC) is very concerned about its customers receiving fraudulent emails. The SLC is proactive in alerting all its customers to be vigilant when receiving emails requesting personal information which claim to be from the SLC. This activity is known as phishing.

As well as alerting customers to phishing activity on their website, the SLC has issued press releases in an attempt to heighten awareness and encourage vigilance.

SLC encourage customers to forward all phishing emails to them so that they can arrange the closure of the sites. This is typically achieved within 24 hours. Since July 2010, the SLC has taken action that led to 62 phishing sites being closed down.

Employment: Emergency Services

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce incentives to encourage employers to hire and retain employees who also work *(a)* as retained duty system firefighters, *(b)* as special constables and *(c)* in other roles in support of emergency services. [26536]

Mr Davey: We do not provide specific incentives to encourage the employment of retained duty firefighters, special constables and others in similar roles. The Government values greatly the contribution of firefighters employed on the retained duty system. An employers' information toolkit and an employers' recognition scheme have been provided (in 2009 and 2010 respectively) to support the Fire and Rescue Service in building links with the local business community and encouraging the release of staff for the retained duty system.

The Government also values greatly the work of special constables and is looking at a range of ways in which to encourage more people to volunteer as special constables. We encourage employers to take on people who are also involved in supporting and protecting their local community, as part of this Government's big society agenda.

Fashion

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the main areas of *(a)* strength and *(b)* weakness of the fashion industry. [35624]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

I have not made any specific assessment of the main areas of strength and weakness of the fashion industry. However, the British Fashion Council has recently published the Value of Fashion report which shows that fashion makes a significant contribution to the UK economy and confirms British fashion's status as one of our most important creative industries.

Potential opportunities and barriers to growth in this sector will be considered as part of the digital and creative industries growth review.

Higher Education: Admissions

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful applicants to university from (i) Hastings and Rye constituency, (ii) Hastings borough council area, (iii) East Sussex, (iv) the south east and (v) England were from each socio-economic background in each of the last five years. [35016]

Mr Willetts: Data by socio-economic background are not available for each of the years requested. Therefore, applicants are split by participation of local areas (POLAR) quintiles.

Applicants who were not accepted for entry can include:

individuals who did not receive any offer;

individuals who received an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decided not to go to university;

individuals who received a conditional offer and failed to meet the specific conditions (e.g. they did not achieve certain grades); and

individuals who decided to withdraw from the UCAS system.

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background[1], 2006/07 to 2010/11

Geographical area	*Area background*	*POLAR2 quintile*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Hastings and Rye constituency	Disadvantaged	—	181	209	219	249	234
	Other	—	283	291	311	353	388
	Total		464	500	530	602	622
Hastings borough council	Disadvantaged	—	159	177	188	215	202
	Other	—	218	224	252	282	315
	Total		377	401	440	497	517
East Sussex	Disadvantaged	1	276	278	336	376	363

Accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background[1], 2006/07 to 2010/11

Geographical area	*Area background*	*POLAR2 quintile*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
		2	511	545	617	658	654
	Other	3	650	712	817	842	839
		4	924	1,001	1,138	1,100	1,110
		5	309	285	363	328	358
		Unknown	18	22	14	16	36
	Total		2,688	2,843	3,285	3,320	3,360
South East	Disadvantaged	1	2,896	3,222	3,539	3,868	4,006
		2	5,399	5,623	6,442	6,705	7,069
	Other	3	9,228	9,988	11,159	11,813	11,829
		4	13,116	14,030	15,228	15,765	16,271
		5	14,776	15,656	16,902	17,582	18,310
		Unknown	543	427	1,136	513	602
	Total		45,958	48,946	54,406	56,246	58,087
England	Disadvantaged	1	37,187	40,369	47,260	51,245	51,208
		2	47,944	50,860	57,772	61,751	61,550
	Other	3	56,708	60,511	67,378	71,903	71,700
		4	69,329	73,595	79,765	84,091	83,995
		5	73,445	77,537	83,769	86,553	87,343
		Unknown	4,616	4,087	7,664	4,693	4,412
	Total		289,229	306,959	343,608	360,236	360,208

Unplaced applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background[1] 2006/07 to 2010/11

Geographical area	*Area background*	*POLAR2 quintile*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Hastings and Rye constituency	Disadvantaged	—	47	52	66	73	121
	Other	—	73	80	90	143	175
	Total		120	130	156	216	296
Hastings borough council	Disadvantaged	—	36	46	60	60	103
	Other	—	59	68	73	126	148
	Total		95	114	133	186	251
East Sussex	Disadvantaged	1	81	109	108	141	190
		2	141	154	194	236	307
	Other	3	188	199	199	300	346
		4	241	245	279	328	398
		5	75	79	65	100	113
		Unknown	14	11	13	31	23
	Total		740	797	858	1,136	1,377
South East	Disadvantaged	1	888	928	1,116	1,350	1,828
		2	1,410	1,549	1,789	2,201	2,946
	Other	3	2,360	2,492	2,649	3,428	4,336
		4	2,906	3,173	3,311	4,175	5,364
		5	3,158	3,370	3,626	4,385	5,429
		Unknown	113	109	328	179	265
	Total		10,835	11,621	12,819	15,718	20,168
England	Disadvantaged	1	9,791	10,738	12,429	15,986	22,999
		2	11,919	12,655	14,460	17,947	25,182

Unplaced applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions via UCAS by area background[1] 2006/07 to 2010/11

Geographical area	Area background	POLAR2 quintile	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	Other	3	13,288	14,054	15,200	19,443	26,059
		4	15,299	16,152	17,250	21,733	28,774
		5	17,619	18,549	19,749	24,683	30,805
		Unknown	922	970	1,900	1,393	1,857
	Total		68,838	73,118	80,988	101,185	135,676

[1] For the purposes of their funding allocations, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) treat entrants from the most disadvantaged 40% of neighbourhoods as 'disadvantaged'
http://www.hefce.ac.uk/widen/fund/
HEFCE uses two different groupings of areas to define disadvantage which are based on the historic levels of participation or qualification in higher education by the local population: one based on the participation rates of young (19 and under) people in HE (which is used by HEFCE when looking at young full-time entrants); and one based on the proportion of adults in the area who hold HE qualifications (which is used by HEFCE when looking at part-time and mature full-time entrants). Because these tables include applicants and accepted applicants of all ages disadvantage is defined by the HE qualified adults measure.
Note:
Numbers for successful and unsuccessful applicants are too small to be split into five quintiles for constituency and local authority level. Therefore the data are split into those from areas classified as 'disadvantaged' or 'other.'

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposed national scholarship programme on *(a)* universities which recruit higher than average numbers of disadvantaged students and *(b)* the propensity of universities to recruit disadvantaged students. [35733]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) will form part of a coherent package of help targeted on potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds. All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the NSP.

We have made it clear that those universities that charge the most should make the most significant contribution towards assisting students from disadvantaged backgrounds to access and succeed at university.

Details of the NSP are still being finalised. Criteria for the NSP are currently being developed through advice from an expert panel, which includes the National Union of Students, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Sutton Trust and others.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who will receive assistance from the proposed National Scholarship Programme in each of the next four years; and what criteria he expects to apply to assess eligibility for the fund. [36141]

Mr Willetts: The National Scholarship Programme (NSP) will form part of a coherent package of help targeted on bright potential students from disadvantaged backgrounds. All universities that want to charge a higher graduate contribution than the £6,000 threshold will be obliged to participate in the NSP.

Details of the National Scholarship Programme are still being finalised. Criteria for the NSP are currently being developed through advice from an expert panel, which includes the National Union of Students, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Universities UK, Sutton Trust and others. My right hon. Friend the Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes), the Government's Advocate for Access to Higher Education, has been invited to join the group.

We want a wide range of people to have the opportunity to benefit from the programme. Likely groups to be supported include disabled students, part-time students, mature-aged students, those who have been eligible for the pupil premium at school or have received free school meals or whose family income means that they will be eligible to receive student maintenance grants.

Government investment in the programme will reach £150 million a year by 2014/15. Options could include a first free year for disadvantaged students who were on free school meals or a foundation year to attract young talented people into the professions. Such measures could potentially help around 18,000 students in 2014/15. The number of students who can benefit from the new programme will depend on the final design which is currently being developed with advice from the expert panel.

Microfinance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of microfinance projects in supporting *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and *(b)* SMEs led by women. [36235]

Mr Prisk: In June 2010 the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills published an action-orientated summary of the national evaluation of Community Development Finance Institutions (which includes microfinance) for the sector. This set out information on the effectiveness of microfinance projects in supporting SMEs. The report did not break down the outcomes for the projects by gender but support for women is mainstreamed within the CDFI sector.

Postgraduate Education: Regional Development Agencies

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which regional development agencies have funded *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partially postgraduate courses in the last five years; what subject matter such courses have covered; what the duration of study was for each such course; and if he will make a statement. [34935]

Mr Prisk: The following tables give the details, where available, of the postgraduate courses undertaken by members of RDA staff that have been funded, either wholly or partly, by the regional development agencies over the last five years.

	2005/06				*2006/07*			
RDA	*Wholly funded*	*Partially funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*	*Wholly funded*	*Partially funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*
AWM	0	0			1	1	CIPFA	1 year
							MSc Research Methods in Public Service (Part Funded)	2 years
EEDA	1	0	MBA	1 year	0	0		
EMDA	1	0	Accountancy (ACCA)	3 years	2	0	Professional Diploma in Marketing	1 year
							Certificate in UK Planning Law (3 modules)	1 year
LDA								
NWDA	0	0			4	1	MSc Urban Regeneration and Management	2 years
							MSc Urban and Rural Regeneration	2 years
							MBA	3 years
							PG Diploma in Surveying	2.5 years
							MSc Information Systems (Part funded)	3 years
ONE	2	0	CIPS (Year 2)	2 years	7	1	ACCA Professional Qualification (2)	5 years
			MA Regional Development	2 years			Certificate in Regeneration	0.5 years
							MSC Audit (Internal/ External) Management and Consultancy	1 year
							Professional Diploma in Marketing	1 year
							CIM	1 year
							MA European Union Studies	2 years
							Cultural and Heritage Tourism Development Scheme	2 years
							CIMA (Partially Funded)	3 years
SEEDA[1]	0	0			0	0		
SWRDA[2]	0	2	MSc Planning Practice and Research.		0	2	One module of MSc Regeneration and Renewal.	
			Module of MBA.				One module of MA in Urban Regeneration	
YF[3]			MA Social and Public Policy	2 years			MA Regeneration and Environment	1 year
			MBA - 2 people	3 years			MBA	2 years
			MSc Transport Planning and Management	1 year			MSc Local and Regional Economic Development	3 years

	2007/08				*2008/09*			
RDA	*Wholly funded*	*Partially funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*	*Wholly funded*	*Partially funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*
AWM	4	0	MSc Urban Regeneration Research and Policy	3 years	1	1	MA Regeneration	2 years
			MSc Environmental Management for Business	2 years			MA Modern History (Part Funded)	2 years
			Post Graduate Diploma in Personnel Management	3 years				
			BSc Psychology	3 years				
EEDA	2	0	L7 Certificate in Leadership Coaching	1 year	1	1	Post Graduate Diploma in Local and Regional Regeneration (Part funded)	2 years
			L7 Diploma in Leadership	1 year			Masters in Town Planning	2 years
EMDA	3	1	CIM Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing	1 year	6	0	CIM Professional Diploma in Marketing	1 year
			CIPR Diploma (Public Relations)	1 year			CIM Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing	1 year
			Postgraduate Certificate in Management	1 year			Postgraduate Diploma in HR (CIPD)	2 years
			LLM Masters in European Law (Part Funded)	3 years			Postgraduate Certificate in Management (3 people)	18 months
LDA								
NWDA	6	0	MSc Urban Regeneration and Management	2 years	3	0	MA Leadership in Sustainability	2 years
			MSc Urban Regeneration and Development	2 years			MA Regeneration and Development	2 years
			MSc Development Economics and Policy	2 years			MBA	3 years
			MA Planning	2 years				
			MSc Commercial Property Development	2 years				
			PG Certificate Local and Regional Economic Development	1 year				
ONE	2	0	Diploma in Management	3 years	5	0	MA Human Resource Management	2 years

	2007/08				*2008/09*			
RDA	*Wholly funded*	*Partially funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*	*Wholly funded*	*Partially funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*
			Diploma in Marketing	1 year			MA Local and Regional Government	2 years
							MA Human Resources	2 years
							MA Regional and Local Development	2 years
							IIA Certificate in Internal Audit and Business Risk	November 2008— to confirm
SEEDA[1]	1	1	MA Strategic Human Resources	1 year	0	1	MBA September 2008—June 10	
			MSC Spatial planning - September 2007—August 2009 (Part funded)					
SWRDA[2]	0	2	One module of MSc Regeneration and Renewal.		0	5	Postgraduate Diploma in Regional Economic Development.	1 year
			One module of MA in Urban Regeneration				Year 1 MBA modules for 2 people.	
							Year 2 of MA in Personnel Development.	
							Module of MSc in Sustainable Development	
YF[3]			MA Urban Environment Design	2 years			MA in Human Resources Management	2 years
			MBA	2 years			MA in Property appraisal and management	2 years
			MSc Urban Regeneration	1 year			MSc Transport Planning and the Environment	2/3 years
			PHD	2.5 years			MSc HRM	1 year

			2009/2010	
RDA	*Wholly Funded*	*Partially Funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*
AWM	2	0	MSc Real Estate Management	2 years
			MSc Spatial Planning	2 years
EEDA	1	1	Masters in Town Planning	2 years
			Advanced Diploma in Internal Auditing (Part Funded)	2 years
EMDA	0	2	CIM Professional Diploma in Marketing (Part Funded)	1 year
			Doctorate of Social Sciences (Evidence and evaluation) (Part Funded)	3 years

2009/2010

RDA	*Wholly Funded*	*Partially Funded*	*Courses*	*Duration*
LDA				
NWDA	0	0		
ONE	7	3	Diploma in Human Resource Management	2 years
			Post Graduate Studies in Urban and Regional Development	1 year
			CIMA	3 years (to complete February 2013)
			MSc Development Management	1.5 years
			Diploma in Destination Management	1 year
			Diploma in Destination Management	1 year
			Diploma in Destination Management	1 year
			MSc Corporate Communication (Partially Funded)	2 years
			LLB (Partially Funded)	4 years (to complete September 2013)
			Diploma in Management Accounting (Partially Funded)	1 year
SEEDA[1]	0	0		
SWRDA[2]	0	4	Year 2 MBA modules for 2 people.	
			MBA.	
			Year 3 of MA in Personnel Development.	
YF[3]			MA Architecture and Urbanism	2 years

[1] The figures for SEEDA do not include full- or part- sponsorship by SEEDA of professional qualifications such as RICS, CIPD, CIPR, for which a first degree may not be essential. Such figures are not in any case readily available.

[2] It has not been possible to provide details of the duration of study as these courses are completed by staff in their own time, using distance and flexible learning arrangements.

[3] It has not been possible to identify % of costs (wholly/partially funded) in the time limit of the PQ.

Note:

Postgraduate courses pre-April 2007 are not recorded on our current HR management system, so data for these years may be incomplete. It would incur disproportionate cost to check records in our archives.

Student Loans Company

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of payments taken in error by the Student Loans Company in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [33420]

Mr Willetts: Statistics on the number of people being refunded repayments—regardless of whether these repayments came before or after borrowers have repaid their loans in full—are published in table 2(iii) of the Statistical First Release "Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2009-10". It is accessible on the Student Loans Company website at

http://www.slc.co.uk/statistics/
newnationalstatistics2_page.html

In financial year 2009-10, 27,800 borrowers were refunded such repayments. This figure includes a number of over-repayments taken after borrowers repaid their loans in full which the Student Loans Company (SLC) is in the process of estimating. I propose to write to the hon. Member with this information once the statistics are ready for publication.

It is possible for borrowers to over-repay their student loans because of the loan collection process. After the end of each tax year, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) notifies the Student Loans Company (SLC) of loan deductions made by employers in the previous tax year. Due to this time lag, it is possible for people to over-repay. However, all overpayments are refunded with interest.

Since December 2009, in order to reduce the number of those who over-repay, borrowers nearing the end of their loan repayment term are notified by the SLC that they may opt out of the PAYE system, and complete their loan repayments by direct debit. Additionally, borrowers are advised to monitor their own repayments so they can calculate when they are likely to repay their loan in full.

Student Numbers

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students normally resident in England were enrolled on full-time *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* vocational sub-degrees and *(c)* foundation degrees on the most recent date for which figures are available; [35695]

(2) how many students aged between 18 and 24 were enrolled on full-time *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* vocational sub-degrees and *(c)* foundation degrees on the most recent date for which figures are available. [35696]

Mr Willetts: The numbers of English-domiciled full-time undergraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions are shown by age group and level of study in Table 1. Figures are taken from the Higher Education

Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and are provided for the 2009/10 academic year. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from HESA in January 2012.

The numbers of English-domiciled full-time undergraduate enrolments at English further education colleges are shown by age group and level of study in Table 2. Figures are taken from the Skills Funding Agency Individualised Learning Record and are provided for the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will become available later this year.

Table 1: Full-time English-domiciled undergraduate enrolments by age group and level of study UK higher education institutions, academic year 2009/10

	Age group			
Level of study	*Under 18*	*18-24*	*25 and over*	*Total*
First Degree	820	767,260	90,610	858,695
Foundation Degree	160	25,810	14,265	40,230
Other Undergraduate[1]	320	33,935	26,780	61,035

[1] Includes students enrolled on Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), Higher National Certificates (HNCs), Diplomas and Certificates of higher education, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at undergraduate level and other sub-degree courses.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Table 2: Full-time English-domiciled undergraduate enrolments by age group and level of study English further education colleges, academic year 2008/09

	Age group			
Level of study	*Under 18*	*18-24*	*25 and over*	*Total*
First Degree	0	3,645	2,330	5,980
Foundation Degree	25	5,225	2,040	7,290
Other Undergraduate[1]	275	5,095	4,090	9,460

[1] Includes students enrolled on Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), Higher National Certificates (HNCs), Diplomas and Certificates of higher education and other sub-degree courses.

Note:

Figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Skills Funding Agency Individualised Learning Record (L05)

Temporary Employment: Career Progression

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to improve career progression for agency workers; and if he will make a statement. [35597]

Mr Davey: The Government recognise the importance of the agency sector in the UK labour market and will continue to work with employers to raise awareness of the public skills system and to invest in training agency workers. Agency workers are currently eligible for Government funding for skills training if they have a contract of employment with the employment agency and are working for an employer client of that employment agency. The Government do not propose to alter this approach to training agency workers when the new workplace training provision is introduced in the next academic year.

As part of the UK's implementation of the agency workers directive, the Government will continue to look for opportunities to improve agency workers access to training to enhance their career development and employability.

JUSTICE

Courts: Closures

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on improvements to each court identified for closure under his recent proposals in respect of the *(a)* building, *(b)* interior and *(c)* facilities in the last 10 years. [35554]

Mr Djanogly: Her Majesty's Courts Service—HMCS—was created in April 2005 and prior to this date, magistrates courts were the responsibility of independent Magistrates Courts Committees and the relevant local authorities were responsible for works, receiving an 80% capital grant from the former Department for Constitutional Affairs. Information on improvement works before 2005 is therefore not available to the Ministry of Justice.

Post-2005, for magistrates and county courts, due to the large amount of manual searching of records and data collation required, it would incur disproportionate costs to answer this question.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36190]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has issued a total of 51 single tender contracts from May 2010 to the present date. Of these 51 single tender contracts two have been above the EU public procurement threshold. These are as follows:

> A contract with Tribal to provide guidance on the transfer of staff from the Scottish Government to the Ministry of Justice with a value of £139,500.
>
> A contract with TNS UK for the provision of database access with a value of £116,769.

Firearms: Convictions

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences relating to firearms in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [36066]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons found guilty at all courts of firearms offences, England and Wales, 2008 and 2009 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for firearms offences[1], England and Wales, 2008 and 2009[2,3]

	Number
2008[4]	2,050
2009	1,850

[1] Includes the following: possession of firearms, firearm certificate related offences, and miscellaneous firearms offences.

[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Judicial Diversity Taskforce

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Judicial Diversity Taskforce to report its findings; and if he will make a statement. [35903]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Judicial Diversity Taskforce, which is overseeing the delivery of the recommendations arising from the report of the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity, will be meeting in early spring to discuss and review progress on improving the diversity of the judiciary.

It will be for the Taskforce to decide how and when to report its findings.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on diversity in the Judiciary. [35904]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My noble Friend, Lord McNally, who represents the Ministry of Justice on the Judicial Diversity Taskforce, and I, have met and corresponded with a range of people about judicial diversity including: the former Chair of the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity, Baroness Neuberger; the Lord Chief Justice and other members of the senior judiciary; the former Chair of the Judicial Appointments Commission; representatives of the legal profession; and academics.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community on judicial diversity. [35905]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have not received any representations from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community on the issue of judicial diversity.

However, I know that members of the Advisory Panel on Judicial Diversity met representatives from both Stonewall and Interlaw in developing their final report.

Ministry of Justice officials have also met representatives from both Stonewall and Interlaw to discuss the report and its implementation. Representatives from Interlaw and Stonewall have presented to the Judicial Diversity Forum, led by the Judicial Appointments Commission, on which the Ministry of Justice is represented.

Legal Services Commission

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for advice and representation in private family law cases involving *(a)* ancillary relief disputes and *(b)* children and family disputes where domestic violence (i) was and (ii) was not present in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [35713]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible for the legal Services Commission to extract the information requested in the time available. I will write to the hon. Member when this is available and place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the Legal Aid budget for legal help and representation in debt cases where the client's home *(a)* was and *(b)* was not at immediate risk in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [35714]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the net cash expenditure on debt cases in 2008-09 for Legal Help and representation. The Legal Services Commission is unable to provide a breakdown of expenditure on debt cases for legal help into categories where the client's home is at risk and where it is not.

		£ million
	Representation	*Legal help*
Home at risk	0.06	n/a
Home not at risk	1.19	n/a
Total	1.26	25.62

National Offender Management Service

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish each item of *(a)* guidance and *(b)* correspondence from (i) his Department and (ii) the National Offender Management Service to (A) prison governors and (B) others on the release of prisoners under home detention curfew since January 2010. [36212]

Mr Blunt: Guidance to prison governors on the operation of the home detention curfew (HDC) scheme is published on the Prison Service website and is contained in Prison Service Order (PSO) 6700. This PSO was issued in 2000 and has since been amended by a number of prison service instructions (PSIs), also published on the website. The PSO and PSIs may be accessed via:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos

Since January 2010 three PSIs have been published that deal with HDC: numbers 34, 39 and 55. There has been no general correspondence with governors about

HDC during this period and neither this Department nor the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) routinely publishes correspondence relating to private individuals.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish each item of *(a)* guidance and *(b)* correspondence from (i) his Department and (ii) the National Offender Management Service to (A) magistrates' courts and (B) Crown courts on the sentencing of convicted criminals since January 2010. [36213]

Mr Blunt: There has been no such guidance or correspondence issuing from the Department to the courts on sentencing. Sentencing guidelines are issued by the Sentencing Council and the Court of Appeal.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the operational capacity is of *(a)* the prison estate and *(b)* each prison in the prison estate; [36260]

(2) what the certified normal accommodation figures are for *(a)* the prison estate and *(b)* each prison in the prison estate; [36261]

(3) how many prisoners are accommodated in multiple-occupancy cells in each prison. [36264]

Mr Blunt: The operational capacity and certified normal accommodation of *(a)* the prison estate and *(b)* each prison in the prison estate is set out in the following table. This information is published monthly on the HMPS website via the following website.

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10004C33pop_bull_dec_10.doc

Information held centrally on prison occupancy covers all but 1,900 prisoners therefore it is not possible to provide the number of prisoners accommodated in multiple-occupancy cells for each prison. It is however possible from the data available to determine the approximate number of prisoners in the prison estate who are sharing accommodation. As at 31 December 2010 around 33,000 prisoners (39% of the prison population) were sharing accommodation with other prisoners, be it crowded (e.g. two prisoners held in a cell designed for one) or not (e.g. two prisoners held in a cell designed for two).

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Prison Name	*Baseline CNA*	*In Use CNA*	*Operational Capacity*	*Population*[1]	*% Pop to In Use CNA*	*% Accommodation Available*
Acklington	946	946	946	864	91	100
Altcourse	794	794	1,324	1,148	145	100
Ashfield	407	407	360	298	73	100
Ashwell	599	184	214	212	115	31
Askham Grange	150	126	128	115	91	84
Aylesbury	437	421	444	407	97	96
Bedford	322	321	506	441	137	100
Belmarsh	800	800	933	779	97	100
Birmingham	1,109	1,088	1,450	1,420	131	98
Blantyre House	122	122	122	122	100	100
Blundeston	481	409	454	453	111	85
Brinsford	545	545	577	489	90	100
Bristol	424	420	606	570	136	99
Brixton	530	530	798	696	131	100
Bronzefield	527	527	527	449	85	100
Buckley Hall	350	350	385	377	108	100
Bullingdon	879	879	1.114	1,049	119	100
Bullwood Hall	220	220	228	228	104	100
Bure	503	503	523	519	103	100
Canterbury	195	195	314	289	148	100
Cardiff	554	554	824	822	148	100
Castington	407	407	409	229	56	100
Channings Wood	698	698	731	706	101	100
Chelmsford	554	554	695	681	123	100
Coldingley	494	494	513	511	103	100
Cookham Wood	143	143	143	104	73	100
Dartmoor	635	493	514	492	100	78
Deerbolt	513	513	513	473	92	100
Doncaster	713	713	1,145	1,065	149	100
Dorchester	146	146	260	212	145	100
Dovegate	1,064	1,060	1,180	1,152	109	100
Dover	316	316	316	283	90	100
Downview	359	291	291	270	93	81

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Prison Name	*Baseline CNA*	*In Use CNA*	*Operational Capacity*	*Population*[1]	*% Pop to In Use CNA*	*% Accommodation Available*
Drake Hall	315	315	315	271	86	100
Durham	606	606	1,014	888	147	100
East Sutton Park	98	98	100	86	88	100
Eastwood Park	333	333	363	285	86	100
Edmunds Hill	389	379	379	375	99	97
Elmley (Sheppey Cluster)	943	925	1,234	1,187	128	98
Erlestoke	470	370	370	360	97	79
Everthorpe	603	603	689	660	109	100
Exeter	322	316	545	495	157	98
Featherstone	671	642	655	653	102	96
Feltham	762	762	762	636	83	100
Ford	557	557	557	523	94	100
Forest Bank	1,064	1,064	1,424	1,308	123	100
Foston Hall	283	283	298	225	80	100
Frankland	859	859	859	840	98	100
Full Sutton	604	596	608	597	100	99
Garth	812	812	847	822	101	100
Gartree	677	677	677	678	100	100
Glen Parva	652	652	808	706	108	100
Gloucester	225	225	321	272	121	100
Grendon/Spring Hill	587	573	573	523	91	98
Guys Marsh	520	452	509	489	108	87
Haslar	160	124	134	117	94	78
Haverigg	622	622	644	622	100	100
Hewell	1,173	1,173	1,431	1,293	110	100
High Down	999	999	1,103	1,032	103	100
Highpoint	920	920	944	914	99	100
Hindley	506	440	440	284	65	87
Hollesley Bay	365	365	365	354	97	100
Holloway	540	531	531	450	85	98
Holme House	1,034	1,034	1.212	942	91	100
Hull	723	723	1,044	944	131	100
Huntercombe	366	275	275	197	72	75
Isis	252	252	252	198	79	100
Isle of Wight[3]	1,570	1,569	1,705	1,668	106	100
Kennet	175	175	342	333	190	100
Kingston	199	199	199	198	99	100
Kirkham	592	592	592	585	99	100
Kirklevington Grange	283	283	283	267	94	100
Lancaster	161	161	243	237	147	100
Lancaster Farms	480	480	530	452	94	100
Latchmere House	207	207	207	192	93	100
Leeds	829	776	1,088	1,041	134	94
Leicester	210	210	392	330	157	100
Lewes	623	495	507	457	92	79
Leyhill	532	530	530	499	94	100
Lincoln	431	427	729	545	128	99
Lindholme	1,054	1.038	1.118	1,045	101	98
Littlehey	1,143	1,143	1,206	1,164	102	100
Liverpool	1,188	1,157	1,423	1,151	99	97
Long Lartin	629	622	622	614	99	99
Low Newton	314	259	282	235	91	82
Lowdham Grange	900	900	930	936	104	100
Maidstone	565	565	600	592	105	100
Manchester	965	949	1,268	1,165	123	98

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Prison Name	*Baseline CNA*	*In Use CNA*	*Operational Capacity*	*Population*[1]	*% Pop to In Use CNA*	*% Accommodation Available*
Moorland/Moorland Open	1,023	713	746	656	92	70
Morton Hall	392	392	392	272	69	100
Mount	747	747	768	766	103	100
New Hall	393	392	446	358	91	100
North Sea Camp	318	318	318	311	98	100
Northallerton	147	142	242	172	121	97
Norwich	625	625	767	706	113	100
Nottingham	723	723	1,060	962	133	100
Onley	710	710	710	678	95	100
Parc	1,170	946	1,258	1,213	128	81
Pentonville	914	909	1,272	1,156	127	99
Peterborough	840	840	1,008	863	103	100
Portland	607	463	483	428	92	76
Preston	453	453	840	752	166	100
Ranby	970	892	1,098	1,071	120	92
Reading	190	190	293	217	114	100
Risley	1,050	1,050	1,095	1,085	103	100
Rochester	756	649	649	615	95	86
Rye Hill	600	600	625	613	102	100
Send	282	282	282	271	96	100
Shepton Mallet	165	165	189	187	113	100
Shrewsbury	184	184	340	315	171	100
Stafford	741	725	741	736	102	98
Standford Hill (Sheppey Cluster)	464	464	464	442	95	100
Stocken	779	779	842	824	106	100
Stoke Heath	634	634	750	505	80	100
Styal	462	451	460	404	90	98
Sudbury	581	581	581	565	97	100
Swaleside (Sheppey Cluster)	1,112	1,112	1,112	1,101	99	100
Swansea	248	240	428	410	171	97
Swinfen Hall	604	604	654	645	107	100
Thorn Cross	322	322	322	277	86	100
Usk/Prescoed	335	335	449	434	130	100
Verne	572	571	606	598	105	100
Wakefield	749	748	750	740	99	100
Wandsworth	1,107	1,107	1,665	1,573	142	100
Warren Hill	222	128	128	117	91	58
Wayland	957	957	1,017	1,000	104	100
Wealstun	810	810	832	803	99	100
Wellingborough	638	514	522	505	98	81
Werrington	160	160	160	102	64	100
Wetherby	408	384	384	312	81	94
Whatton	779	776	841	835	108	100
Whitemoor	473	452	452	448	99	96
Winchester	499	499	706	642	129	100
Wolds	320	320	395	382	119	100
Woodhill	661	656	819	767	117	99
Wormwood Scrubs	1,176	1,176	1,281	1,203	102	100

Monthly Bulletin—December 2010 (report date 31 December 2010)

Prison Name	*Baseline CNA*	*In Use CNA*	*Operational Capacity*	*Population[1]*	*% Pop to In Use CNA*	*% Accommodation Available*
Wymott	1,113	1,113	1,176	1,161	104	100

Total baseline CNA = 80,183
Total In Use CNA = 77,466
Total Useable Operational Capacity[2] = 87,983
Total Population = 83,055
% Population to In Use CNA = 107%
Total % Accommodation Available = 97%
Total Out of Use Accommodation = 2,717

[1] The prison unlock figure may be lower than the 'Population', as the 'Population' includes prisoners on authorised absence.

[2] No places are currently activated under Operation Safeguard.

[3] The sites at Albany, Camp Hill and Parkhurst constitute HM Prison Isle of Wight.

Definitions of Accommodation Terms:

Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA): Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA), or uncrowded capacity, is the Prison Service's own measure of accommodation. CNA represents the good, decent standard of accommodation that the service aspires to provide all prisoners.

Baseline CNA: Baseline CNA is the sum total of all certified accommodation in an establishment except, normally:

Cells in punishment or segregation units.

Healthcare cells or rooms in training prisons and YOIs that are not routinely used to accommodate long stay patients.

In-Use CNA: In-use CNA is baseline CNA less those places not available for immediate use, for example: damaged cells, cells affected by building works.

Operational Capacity: The operational capacity of a prison is the total number of prisoners that an establishment can hold taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. It is determined by Directors of Offender Management on the basis of operational judgement and experience.

Useable Operational Capacity: Useable Operational Capacity of the estate is the sum of all establishments' operational capacity less 2000 places. This is known as the operating margin and reflects the constraints imposed by the need to provide separate accommodation for different classes of prisoner i.e. by sex, age, security category, conviction status, single cell risk assessment and also due to geographical distribution.

Establishments Exceeding their Operational Capacity: Governing governors and Controllers and Directors of contracted out prisons must ensure that the approved operational capacity is not normally exceeded other than on an exceptional basis to accommodate pressing operational need.

Source:

Report produced by Population Strategy

The CNA and Operational Capacity figures are taken from the latest signed cell certificates held by PS.

The report is compiled from data on the last working Friday in December.

Prison Sentences

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders serving custodial sentences received sentences of *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 months and five years, *(d)* between five and 10 years, *(e)* between 10 and 25 years and *(f)* over 25 years. [36262]

Mr Blunt: From the most recent available data, 30 September 2010, the number of prisoners serving custodial sentences of:

(a) less than or equal to six months was 5,532;

(b) greater than six months to less than 12 months was 2,564;

(c) 12 months to less than five years was 26,546;

(d) five years to less than 10 years was recorded as 12,630;

(e) 10 years to less than 25 years was recorded as 4,907;

(f) 25 years or more was recorded as 75.

There were 432 cases with a sentence length of five years or more where it was not possible to provide an exact sentence length and there were 13,271 prisoners serving indeterminate sentences at 30 September 2010.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Reoffenders

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the reoffending rate of offenders with a diagnosed mental health disorder was in each English region in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [36230]

(2) what the reoffending rate of offenders was in each English region in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [36231]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice publishes local reoffending data for all adult offenders on the probation caseload (which includes offenders out on licence and those with court orders). These data are produced at the probation area level and measure the reoffending of all offenders under probation supervision over a period of three months. The results are produced by aggregating four quarters of data.

The following table shows the reoffending rate for adult offenders on the probation caseload. Each period shown is based on the offenders on the probation caseload at the end of March, June, September and December of each year. Data are not available prior to 2007.

On 1 April 2010, Probation Trusts were established following a rigorous formal application process, resulting in all 42 former Probation Boards being replaced by 35 Probation Trusts. The table presented here is based on data prior to this date.

Reoffending data for offenders with a diagnosed mental health disorder are not available.

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Local adult reoffending rates by offenders, in 2007-09, by probation area in England

Percentage

	1 April to 31 March each year		
Region	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
East Midlands	9.47	9.16	9.04
East of England	8.65	9.22	9.29
London	8.72	8.67	8.50
North East	14.93	14.67	14.24
North West	9.78	10.22	9.88
South East	8.82	8.92	9.48
South West	9.37	10.32	10.06
Unknown	11.15	10.53	10.46

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related crime and disorder. [34903]

James Brokenshire: The Government take the issue of alcohol-related crime and disorder very seriously. In the coalition agreement, we set out a clear programme of reform around alcohol licensing to tackle the crime and antisocial behaviour that is too often associated with binge drinking in the night time economy.

Following our recent consultation and the publication of the consultation response in December, we have committed to the following programme of work to introduce measures to deliver the coalition agreement commitments through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill:

> Making it easier for communities to have their say on local licensing, allowing local authorities to consider the views of the wider community, not just those living close to premises;
>
> Taking tough action against underage drinking by doubling the fine to £20,000 for those found persistently selling alcohol to children, extending orders that see premises closed on a voluntary basis to a minimum of seven days and bringing in automatic licence reviews for these problem premises—which can see licences revoked;
>
> Charging a fee for late-night licences to contribute towards the cost of policing and local authority services to help mitigate the impact of the night time economy on local communities;
>
> Substantially overhauling the system for Temporary Event Notices (TENs) so that existing loopholes can no longer be exploited by unscrupulous operators, while ensuring the process is not bureaucratic for small voluntary and community groups.

Additionally, on 18 January the Government announced their intention to ban the sale of alcohol sold below duty + VAT. By introducing this new measure, we will stop the worst instances of deep discounting and prevent alcohol being sold so cheaply that it leads to a greater risk of health harms or drunken violence.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the incidence of alcohol related crime and disorder. [35528]

James Brokenshire: The Government are determined to reform the licensing regime to ensure that alcohol is no longer a driver of crime and disorder. To this end, we have set out our proposals in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which include giving licensing authorities more power to refuse or revoke premises licences, introducing a late night levy so that premises contribute to the cost of policing the night time economy and reforming the temporary event notice (TEN) system to ensure that loopholes can no longer be exploited.

Additionally, we are running a series of intensive support visits for police and local authority areas which request this support. The visits take place over three days, and involve classroom based training for the operational staff on the powers they have to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder, as well as practical support on licensing visits to premises.

Bolivia: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to lodge a formal objection to the request made by the Bolivian Government to amend the 1961 UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to remove the ban on coca leaf chewing. [35183]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Government submitted an objection on 21 January 2011 to the Bolivian proposal to amend the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 to remove coca leaf as an illicit drug.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the proposal by Bolivia to exempt traditional uses of coca from the provisions of the 1961 UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs; and if she will make a statement. [34627]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* The Government submitted an objection on 21 January 2011 to the Bolivian proposal to amend the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 to remove coca leaf as an illicit drug. If coca leaf were permitted to be removed from the Convention, it would likely result in more coca cultivation, which in turn would lead to greater cocaine production.

The Government remain committed to working with Bolivia to tackle cocaine supply and trafficking and I have recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Bolivian Government to reinforce that close cooperation.

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees being transferred *(a)* from Campsfield House immigration removal centre and *(b)* to Campsfield House immigration removal centre have required medical treatment in connection with their transfer in the latest period for which figures are available. [35190]

Damian Green: Details on the numbers of detainees being transferred to and from Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre who have required medical treatment in connection with their transfer could be provided only by detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

All escorting officers are trained in first aid, should a detainee require medical assistance while in their care. Officers could also divert to a hospital if they thought it appropriate.

Every detainee is seen by a nurse within two hours of arrival at an immigration removal centre and is given an appointment to see a GP within 24 hours, unless an earlier appointment is required. This service extends to detainees who have transferred from another immigration removal centre.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees were transferred from other immigration removal centres and other immigration detention facilities to Campsfield House immigration removal centre in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010; and for what reasons each such transfer was made. [35228]

Damian Green: The following table shows the number of detainees who were transferred to Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in the calendar years 2008-10. Data are not available for prior years.

	Number of detainees transferred
2008	2,320
2009	1,715
2010	1,910

The data provided includes transfers to Campsfield House from other IRCs and other immigration detention facilities, including short term holding facilities and holding rooms. It does not include transfers from prisons or police stations. The information is taken from data normally used for management information only. It has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications and is provisional and subject to change.

Details on the reasons for each individual transfer are not available and could be provided only by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The Detainee Escorting and Population Management Unit (DEPMU) is responsible for bed space management within the UK Border Agency's detention estate. The unit seeks to minimise movements within the estate in the interests of providing a settled regime and the efficient use of escorting resources.

Movement of detainees around the estate is required for operational reasons, most often to:

Position detainees close to airports prior to removal

Position detainees for court appearances

Position detainees for hospital appointments

Position detainees for embassy/documentation interviews

Facilitate the movement of detainees to more secure locations for security/behavioural reasons

Ensure bed space is fully utilised.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre have been detained for *(a)* more than and *(b)* less than one year; [35313]

(2) what the longest period is for which a detainee has been held at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre in the last five years. [35315]

Damian Green: As at 30 September 2010, management information shows that of the 215 people in Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, detained solely under Immigration Act powers, 200 had been in detention for less than a year and 15 for a year or longer. These figures are rounded to the nearest five.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Local records show that the longest period for which a detainee has been held at Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre in the last five years was 1,041 days. The individual concerned had a very serious criminal record and was detained while attempts were made to document him for removal. This information is taken from data normally used for management information only. It has not been subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. It is also provisional and subject to change.

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the detainees in Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre were convicted of committing violent crimes in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008, *(c)* 2009 and *(d)* 2010. [35314]

Damian Green: UK Border Agency internal management information shows that there are currently no detainees in Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre that have been convicted of violent crimes since 2007.

Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* locate and *(b)* close facilities manufacturing skunk cannabis; and if she will make a statement. [36117]

James Brokenshire: The unauthorised cultivation of cannabis and any subsequent supply and possession of cannabis is unlawful. The manufacture and trafficking in controlled drugs of all classes needs to be tackled robustly in order to reduce the harm drugs cause to communities and the organised criminality associated with their supply.

The Government have worked closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to support the policing of illegal cannabis production and use. On 17 August 2010 ACPO published the UK National Problem Profile Commercial Cultivation of Cannabis. The main finding of the report is that there has been a significant rise in the identification of cannabis factories in 2009-10, from 3,032 in 2007-08, to 6,866 in 2009-10. The number of cannabis plants seized has also increased, from 643,510 cannabis plants seized in 2008-09 to 758,700 in 2009-10.

ACPO is co-ordinating the police response to the issue of cannabis factories, which includes proactive operations to identify and close down these factories and disrupt the organised crime groups behind them, while improving police knowledge and understanding of the trade through activity-led intelligence gathering.

This activity includes the development of a UK Baseline Assessment; a National Problem Profile of commercial cannabis cultivation; engagement with UK Revenue Protection Agency (UKRPA) and power companies and the publication of National Policing Improvement Agency and ACPO practice guidance on tackling commercial cannabis cultivation and head shops. The guidance can be found at:

www.npia.police.uk/en/docs/Cannabis_Cultivation_R.pdf

Detention Centres: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* Northern Ireland Minister of Justice and *(b)* Northern Ireland Policing Board on proposals for a new immigration detention centre in Northern Ireland; [35240]

(2) whether provision will be made for children to be held in the Northern Ireland immigration detention centre. [35241]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency successfully applied for planning consent to convert a disused police station in Larne into a residential short-term holding facility providing accommodation for up to 22 adults. No children will be held at the facility.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not personally met with the Northern Ireland Policing Board to discuss Larne. She met David Ford, Northern Ireland Minister of Justice on 8 September 2010 but Larne was not discussed.

The UK Border Agency Assistant Director responsible for Immigration Group in Northern Ireland met the Northern Ireland Policing Board on 18 March 2010 and briefed them on the Agency's plans for a short-term holding facility at Larne. Agency officials have since, on occasion, updated Members of the Legislative Assembly, which includes Policing Board members, on the proposals for the facility.

Drugs: Professor Nutt

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether licences, authorities or permissions were required for Professor Nutt to possess and inject the class A drug psilocybin into human subjects on the BBC programme, The Brain, A Secret History. [35745]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* A licence is required to possess psilocybin, which is controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and listed in schedule 1 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. Those working with schedule 1 drugs in their capacity as researchers and under Home Office licence to possess do not need a specific Home Office authority to administer.

The psilocybin used on the BBC programme, The Brain, A Secret History, was lawfully possessed by Bristol university under Home Office licence and was lawfully taken to Cardiff university, where the research took place, under the supervision of the licence holder.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from countries outside the EU entered the UK in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [35245]

Damian Green: The available statistics on the number of persons given leave to enter the United Kingdom as students, excluding European Economic Area and Swiss nationals, 1997 to 2009, are given in the following table:

Passengers[1, 2, 3] given leave to enter the United Kingdom for the purpose of study excluding EEA and Swiss nationals, 1997 to 2009

Number of journeys

	Total	*Students*	*Tier 4-students*	*Student visitors*
1997	278,000	278,000	n/a	n/a
1998	266,000	266,000	n/a	n/a
1999	272,000	272,000	n/a	n/a
2000	312,000	312,000	n/a	n/a
2001	339,000	339,000	n/a	n/a
2002	359,000	369,000	n/a	n/a
2003	319,000	319,000	n/a	n/a
2004	294,000	294,000	n/a	n/a
2005	284,000	284,000	n/a	n/a
2006	309,000	309,000	n/a	n/a
2007	361,000	358,000	n/a	3,400
2008	370,000	227,000	n/a	143,000
2009[4]	468,000	82,100	188,000	198,000

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Excludes dependants.

[2] Nationals of EU accession countries are included or excluded according to their accession date.

[3] Figures rounded to three significant figures. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding

[4] Provisional figures.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". These publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether entry clearance decisions for visitors from the Punjab, India are taken by officials in *(a)* Delhi, *(b)* London or *(c)* elsewhere. [34779]

Damian Green: Decisions on all applications for entry clearance lodged in the Punjab, India, including those for entry as a visitor, are made by UK Border Agency officials in New Delhi. However, an entry clearance officer may, exceptionally, refer an application to London for consideration outside the immigration rules, e.g. if there are compelling, compassionate circumstances involved.

Hinkley Point Power Stations: Demonstrations

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to prevent protestors from accessing Hinkley Point nuclear power station via the Bristol Ports Habitat Wetland scheme. [35143]

James Brokenshire: The policing of protest is an operational matter for the local police force.

Human Trafficking

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions by the competent authority regarding the National Referral Mechanism have been subsequently reversed through judicial review. [35226]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* We are not aware of any competent authority decisions being reversed by judicial review. There have been a very small number of cases where a judicial review application has caused the competent authority to reconsider the case and this has led to a negative decision being reversed.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to support more effective enforcement internationally to combat human trafficking. [35321]

Damian Green: The Government work closely with international counterparts, including through regional bodies such as the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, to strengthen joint enforcement activity in source and transit countries, to tackle criminal networks and to raise awareness among potential victims. Law enforcement partners work in collaboration with international counterparts, using Joint Investigation Teams where appropriate. The forthcoming human trafficking strategy will set out what steps we will take to reinforce these efforts.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to encourage the reporting of human trafficking. [35350]

Damian Green: The reporting of human trafficking is crucial if the United Kingdom is to be successful in its effort to combat this brutal crime.

To this end, the UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency, has introduced mandatory training for all new police officers on human trafficking.

The UK Border Agency has introduced mandatory e-learning on human trafficking for all operational staff below the level of Assistant Director. This has helped to improve their ability to identify and report potential incidents of human trafficking, and where applicable to refer onwards via the National Referral Mechanism.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the work of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's prevention sub-group in each year since its inception. [35351]

Damian Green: There has been no Home Office assessment of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's prevention sub-group.

Immigrants: Detainees

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passengers have been detained at Britain's ports and airports while travelling on forged or stolen travel documents in each of the last three years. [35310]

Damian Green: The following table outlines the number of false travel documents detected by Border Force officers at UK ports and airports and juxtaposed controls for each of the last three calendar years.

	Total
2008	2,745
2009	1,770
2010	1,589

We are unable to provide figures based on the number of passengers detained in possession of forged documents because the data are not centrally recorded in this way. In order to retrieve the information in the requested format we would have to refer to individual records at disproportionate cost.

These figures do not include the number of inadequately documented passengers denied boarding by commercial carriers' overseas, who work in conjunction with UK Border Agency immigration liaison officers and managers (formerly airline liaison officers). Since 2004, the number of immigration liaison officer deployments to key travel hubs has more than doubled resulting in significant numbers of passengers being stopped with false documents before they travel to the UK. Greater numbers are also subject to visa controls and the safeguards and biometric capture involved also has a significant deterrent effect.

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Private Land

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to ensure that plans to tax clamping and towing on private land do not leave property owners unable to tackle illegal parking on their land. [35693]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government intend to include in the Protection of Freedoms Bill, to be introduced by February, provisions that will make it an offence to immobilise or tow away a vehicle without lawful authority, with the intention of preventing the motorist from moving their vehicle.

This will not prevent landowners from using other forms of parking control which remain legal: for example, ticketing or fixed barriers. Where appropriate, the Government would expect landowners to use those other types of parking control.

The Bill will also include provisions to extend the powers of the police to move cars that are parked dangerously or obstructively on private land in the same way as they can do at present on public roads.

Legal Highs

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to identify new and emerging legal highs. [35965]

James Brokenshire: The Government takes the issue of new psychoactive substances (so called 'legal highs') very seriously.

On 30 November 2010 we introduced to the House legislative proposals, in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, to amend the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 with provisions for temporary banning powers on new 'legal highs' and for the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD's) membership to have the flexibility required to respond to a challenging drugs landscape.

On 1 January 2011 the Home Office launched a three month pilot to explore improvements to the current forensic early warning system for identifying new and emerging drugs. This includes working with forensic and chemical suppliers, law enforcement agencies and experts in the field to develop a co-ordinated UK-wide approach to laboratory testing and analysis of law enforcement seizures and wider test purchasing to identify new psychoactive substances more quickly. The creation of a 'virtual reference library' of characterised chemical reference standards is also being explored.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. member for Manchester, Gorton of 13 December 2010 in regard to Mr R Bestford. [36032]

James Brokenshire: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 20 January 2011.

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and if she will make a statement. [35957]

James Brokenshire: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave on 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 103W.

Police: Demonstrations

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the adequacy of *(a)* resources, *(b)* the legal framework, *(c)* guidance issued by her Department and *(d)* her Department's policy for dealing with public order issues relating to public protests and ensuring public safety and proportionate policing. [28530]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 3 December 2010]:* The Government's policy is to support the police in striking the right balance between facilitating peaceful protest and dealing robustly with individuals engaged in crime and disorder at demonstrations. The Government continue to work closely with the police and other agencies in respect of recent, current and forthcoming public order challenges to assess their impact on the police's responsibility in maintaining this balance.

Sexual Offence Liaison Officers

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual offence liaison officers were employed in each police force in the latest period for which figures are available. [36057]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The Home Office does not hold this information centrally. Decisions on the deployment of officers are for each force to make.

Vetting

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to announce the completion of the review into the future of criminal record checks and the vetting of volunteer workers. [35627]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have commissioned a review of the criminal records regime which we expect to report within the next few weeks. We shall consider carefully and respond to the outcomes and recommendations of the review. The Government continue to be committed to reducing the barriers to volunteering.

Visas: Internet

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to enable *(a)* students and *(b)* other visitors from abroad to submit applications for visas entirely online. [34778]

Damian Green: There are three main parts to the overseas visa application process:

Application form

This may be submitted online

Biometric (fingerprint) enrolment and core biometric verification (checking passport details)

This is done in person by the applicant at one of our Visa Application or Biometric Enrolment Centres

Supporting document submission (may be done in person or sent depending on location)

Given that an applicant will be required to submit biometrics in person, there are no plans to enable *(a)* students and *(b)* other visitors from abroad to submit applications for visas entirely online.

Young Offenders

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged 10 to 16 years were *(a)* arrested for an offence, *(b)* charged with an offence, *(c)* cautioned for an offence and *(d)* convicted of an offence in 2009. [35880]

James Brokenshire: The arrests collection held by the Home Office is an aggregate collection covering specific age bands. Figures are collected on arrests of persons in the 10-17 age band, rather than the 10-16 band requested.

In 2008-09 (latest available) the number of persons aged 10-17 arrested for notifiable offences in was 273,041.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of 10-16 year olds given reprimands and final warnings (juvenile cautions), proceeded against at magistrates courts (provided in lieu of charges as charges data are not available) and found guilty at all courts for all offences in 2009, are provided in the table.

The arrests data provided by the Home Office covers notifiable offences only, whereas the data provided by the Ministry of Justice covers all criminal offences, therefore the data are not directly comparable.

Number of offenders aged 10 to 16 years given a reprimand or warrning[1, 2] and the number of defendants aged 10 to 16 proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for all offences, England and Wales, 2009[3, 4]

	Number
Reprimand or warning	63,380
Proceeded against	65,929
Found guilty	52,083

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings.

[2] The reprimand or warning statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been given a reprimand or warning for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Burma: Overseas Aid

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding was allocated by his Department to *(a)* the Mao Tao Clinic and *(b)* Backpack Health Worker teams operating in Burma in the last year for which figures are available. [35614]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £119,999 in 2009-10 to the Mao Tao Clinic. We are considering a proposal for additional health aid for displaced people in conflict-affected parts of eastern Burma.

Malcolm Wicks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has allocated aid to ethnic Karen refugees in response to the current political situation in Karen State, Burma. [35615]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is providing approximately £1.6 million this financial year for food, housing, other supplies and improved access to legal assistance for the 146,000 Burmese refugees living in camps in Thailand. We have not provided additional funding in response to the recent upsurge in fighting in Karen state.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35790]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to ensuring that UK taxpayers understand where their money goes and the results it achieves. DFID aims to communicate this as clearly as possible to the public.

There is an expectation that staff use plain English, as set out in guidance on how to present advice to Ministers, and respond to inquiries from the public. Work is routinely returned for redrafting if it does not meet this expectation. Staff are supported through face-to-face and online training; the latter is provided in partnership with the Plain English Campaign. Professional editors produce all content for DFID's online and print publications.

Ministers have been forceful in requiring clear prose and high standards of punctuation and grammar.

Malaria: Disease Control

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the unit cost of *(a)* anti-malarial mosquito nets and *(b)* pentavalent vaccines provided by his Department. [36265]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses a variety of channels to fund and deliver long lasting insecticide treated nets (LLINs) including through its support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNITAID and through bilateral support at country level. The purchase and delivery cost of LLINs varies between countries and by delivery channel. Recent analysis of 55 countries reporting on procurement by the Global Fund, which accounted for 35% of global purchases, estimated the average unit cost of purchasing a LLIN to be US $5.30 in 2009. This does not include distribution costs.

DFID provides funds through the GAVI Alliance to roll out the pentavalent vaccine. Due to increased demand for the vaccine and a reduced price offer by an emerging market vaccine manufacturer, GAVI estimates that in 2011 the average weighted price for the vaccine will go down to US $2.58, compared to the current average price of US $2.97.

Nigeria: Education

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide additional funding and capacity for the element of the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria that supports the development of schools-based management committees. [36675]

Mr O'Brien: Support for school management committees is one of the four main elements of the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN). To date ESSPIN has supported nearly 1,000 school management committees, which has led to significant improvements in local accountability and involvement.

There is no plan at present to provide additional resources for this particular aspect of ESSPIN's work. However, a mid-term review which will begin in May 2011 will look at how funds can be best utilised within the programme to ensure greatest benefits to students, schools and communities. We are also supporting school management committees through other partners, including UNICEF, and will be reviewing how to achieve greatest results and best value for money.

Sri Lanka: Food

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received from the World Food Programme on the effect on food rations in Sri Lanka of insufficient donor funding in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [35721]

Mr Duncan: The British high commission in Colombo has recently discussed food aid funding issues with representatives of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Our understanding is that, at present, WFP only has sufficient funding for its food aid programme in Sri Lanka until April 2011.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on the provision of shelter cash grants to internally-displaced families being resettled in Sri Lanka. [35876]

Mr Duncan: The British high commission in Colombo is in regular contact with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sri Lanka on this and other issues. In 2010, the Department for International Development (DFID) provided £300,000 to UNHCR for shelter cash grants. In total, more than 70,000 families returning to their home areas have now benefitted from UNHCR's cash grants programme.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made on the level of involvement of *(a)* Tamil community groups and *(b)* independent politicians in the process of resettlement in Sri Lanka. [35877]

Mr Duncan: Tamil community groups, such as rural development societies, are helping internally displaced people to re-establish their livelihoods on their return to their home areas. Opposition and minority parties and politicians have raised concerns over issues such as the pace of resettlement with the relevant authorities.

Sri Lanka: Schools

Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received from UNICEF on the effect on the schooling of children in Sri Lanka of the use of school property in the Northern Provinces for military or rehabilitation purposes. [35728]

Mr Duncan: The British high commission in Colombo is in regular contact with UNICEF about humanitarian issues in Sri Lanka. We have received no representations from UNICEF on this particular question.

UN Agencies: Finance

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department contributed to the UN Division for the Advancement of Women in each of the last four years. [35874]

Mr Duncan: The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) is part of the UN Secretariat. It is funded from UN member states' assessed contributions to the UN regular budget. The UK's contribution to the regular budget is managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any additional contribution to DAW in the last four years.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department contributed to the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues in each of the last four years. [35887]

Mr Duncan: The UN Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI) is part of the UN Secretariat. It is funded from UN member states' assessed contributions to the UN regular budget. The UK's contribution to the assessed budget is managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any additional contribution to OSAGI in the last four years.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department contributed to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in each of the last four years. [35888]

Mr Duncan: The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) is part of the UN Secretariat. It is funded from UN member states' assessed contributions to the UN regular budget. The UK's contribution to the assessed budget is managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any additional contribution to INSTRAW in the last four years.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) where each regiment of the *(a)* Royal Artillery, *(b)* Royal Engineers, *(c)* Royal Signals and *(d)* Household Cavalry is stationed; [35889]

(2) where each infantry battalion is stationed. [35902]

Nick Harvey: The name and location of each Regular and Territorial Army Infantry Battalion is shown in the following table:

Name of Infantry Battalion (Bn)	*Barracks (Bks)/Station/Location*
1st Bn Grenadier Guards	Wellington Bks, London
1st Bn Coldstream Guards	New Mons Bks, Aldershot
1st Bn Scots Guards	Bourlon Bks, Catterick
1st Bn Irish Guards	Victoria Bks, Windsor
1st Bn Welsh Guards	Lille Bks, Aldershot
The London Regiment	Battersea, London
1st Bn The Royal Regiment of	Dreghorn Bks, Edinburgh, Scotland
2nd Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Glencorse Bks, Edinburgh
3rd Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Fort George, Inverness
4th Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	St Barbara Bks, Fallingbostel
5th Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Howe Bks, Canterbury
6th Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Walcheren Bks, Glasgow
7th Bn The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Queen's Bks, Perth
1st Bn The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	Barker Bks, Paderborn
2nd Bn The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	Napier Lines, Woolwich
3rd Bn The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	Leros TA Centre, Canterbury
1st Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Mooltan Bks, Tidworth
2nd Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Trenchard Bks, Celle
5th Bn The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Gilesgate Armoury, Durham
1st Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment	Queen Elizabeth Bks, Pirbright
2nd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment	ESBA, Dhekelia, Cyprus
3rd Bn The Royal Anglian Regiment	Blenheim Camp, Bury St Edmonds
1st Bn The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	Somme Bks, Catterick
2nd Bn The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	WSBA, Episkopi, Cyprus
4th Bn The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	Kimberley Bks, Preston
1st Bn The Yorkshire Regiment	Oxford Bks, Munster
2nd Bn The Yorkshire Regiment	Weeton Bks, Preston
3rd Bn The Yorkshire Regiment	Battlesbury Bks, Warminster
4th Bn The Yorkshire Regiment	Worsley Bks, York
1st Bn The Mercian Regiment	Marne Bks, Catterick
2nd Bn The Mercian Regiment	Palace Bks, Belfast
3rd Bn The Mercian Regiment	Lumsden Bks, Fallingbostel
4th Bn The Mercian Regiment	Wolseley House TA Centre, Wolverhampton
1st Bn The Royal Welsh Regiment	The Dale, Chester
2nd Bn The Royal Welsh Regiment Lucknow Bks, Tidworth	
3rd Bn The Royal Welsh Regiment	Maindy Bks, Cardiff
1st Bn The Rifles	Beachley Bks, Chepstow
2nd Bn The Rifles	Abercorn Bks, Ballykinler
3rd Bn The Rifles	Redford Bks, Edinburgh
4th Bn The Rifles	Kiwi Bks, Bulford
5th Bn The Rifles	Allanbrooke Bks, Paderborn
6th Bn The Rifles	Wyvern Bks, Exeter
7th Bn The Rifles	Brock Bks, Reading
1st Bn The Royal Irish Regiment	Clive Bks, Tern Hill
2nd Bn The Royal Irish Regiment	Portadown, Northern Ireland
2nd Bn The Parachute Regiment	Merville Bks, Colchester
3rd Bn The Parachute Regiment	Merville Bks, Colchester
4th Bn The Parachute Regiment	Thornbury Bks, Pudsey
1st Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles	Sir John Moore Bks, Shorncliffe
2nd Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles	Seria, Brunei

The name and location of each Regular and Territorial Army Regiment of the *(a)* Royal Artillery, *(b)* Royal Engineers, *(c)* Royal Signals and *(d)* Household Cavalry is shown in the following tables:

The Royal Artillery

Name of Regiment	*Barracks (Bks)/Station/ Location*
1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery	Assaye Barracks, Hampshire
3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery	Caen Barracks, Hohne
4th Regiment Royal Horse Artillery	Alanbrooke Barracks. Topcliffe
5th Regiment Royal Artillery	Marne Barracks, Catterick
7th (Parachute) Regiment Royal Horse Artillery	Merville Barracks, Colchester
12th Regiment Royal Artillery	Baker Barracks, Hampshire
14th Regiment Royal Artillery	Royal Artillery Barracks, Larkhill
16th Regiment Royal Artillery	St Georges Barracks, North Luffenham
19th Regiment Royal Artillery	Bhurtpore Barracks, Tidworth
26th Regiment Royal Artillery	Mansergh Barracks, Gutersloh
29 (Commando) Regiment Royal Artillery	RHQ 8, 23,79 Batterys, Plymouth
32nd Regiment Royal Artillery	Roberts Barracks, Larkhill
39th Regiment Royal Artillery	Albemarle Barracks, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
40th Regiment Royal Artillery	Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn
47th Regiment Royal Artillery	Baker Barracks, Thorney Island
The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery	Ordnance Hill, St Johns Wood, London
Honourable Artillery Company	Finsbury Barracks, London
100th (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)	RHQ/201 Bty RA(V), TA Centre, Luton
101st (Northumbrian) Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)	R.HQ, Napier Armoury, Gateshead
103rd (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)	R.HQ, Jubilee Barracks, St Helens
104th Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)	Raglan Barracks, South Wales
105th Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)	RHQ, Artillery House, Edinburgh
106th (Yeomanry) Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers)	Napier House, Grove Park, London
Central Volunteers Headquarters Royal Artillery and Headquarters Woolwich Station	Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich

The Royal Engineers

Name of Regiment	*Barracks (Bks)/Station/ Location*
21 Engineer Regiment	Claro Bks, Ripon, N Yorks
22 Engineer Regiment	Swinton Bks, Tidworth, Hants
23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault)	Rock Bks, Woodbridge, Suffolk
24 Commando Engineer Regiment	RM Chivenor, Barnstaple, Devon
25 Engineer Regiment (Air Support)	Waterbeach Bks, Waterbeach, Cambs
26 Engineer Regiment	Swinton Bks, Tidworth, Hants
28 Engineer Regiment	Gordon Bks, Hameln, Germany
32 Engineer Regiment	Campbell Bks, Hohne, Germany
33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)	Carver Bks, Wimbish, Essex
35 Engineer Regiment	Barker Bks, Paderborn, Germany
36 Engineer Regiment	Invicta Park Bks, Maidstone, Kent
38 Engineer Regiment	RAF Aldergrove, Northern Ireland
39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support)	Waterbeach Bks, Waterbeach, Cambs
42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic)	Denison Bks, Hermitage, Berks
101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)	Carver Bks, Wimbish
62 Works Group Royal Engineers[1]	Chetwynd Bks, Chilwell, Notts
63 Works Group Royal Engineers[1]	Chetwynd Bks, Chilwell, Notts
64 Works Group Royal Engineers[1]	Chetwynd Bks, Chilwell, Notts
66 Works Group Royal Engineers[1,2]	Chetwynd Bks, Chilwell, Notts
67 Works Group Royal Engineers[1,2]	Chetwynd Bks, Chilwell, Notts
Work Group Royal Engineers (Airfields)[1]	Waterbeach Bks, Waterbeach, Cambs
1 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment	Brompton Bks, Chatham, Kent
3 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment	Gibraltar Bks, Camberley, Surrey
Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia)	The Castle, Monmouth, Gwent
71 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers)	RAF Leuchars, St Andrews, Fife
72 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers)	Napier Armoury, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear
73 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers)	TA Centre, Nottingham, Notts
75 Engineer Regiment (Volunteers)	Peninsula Bks, Warrington, Cheshire

The Royal Signals

Name of Regiment	*Station/Location*
1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment	Hammersmith Barracks, Herford (GE)
2nd Signal Regiment	Imphal Barracks, York
3rd (United Kingdom) Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment	Picton Barracks, Bulford
7th Signal Regiment	Javelin Barracks, Elmpt (GE)
10th Signal Regiment	Basil Hill Site, Corsham
11th Signal Regiment	Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum
14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare)	Cawdor Barracks, Brawdy (nr Haverfordwest)
16th Signal Regiment	Javelin Barracks, Elmpt (GE)
18th (United Kingdom Special Forces) Signal Regiment	Stirling Lines, Hereford
21st Signal Regiment (Air Support)	Azimghur Barracks, Colerne (nr Bath)
22nd Signal Regiment	Beacon Barracks, Stafford
30th Signal Regiment	Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote (nr Nuneaton)
32nd Signal Regiment (Volunteers)	Glasgow
37th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)	Redditch
38th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)	Sheffield
39th Signal Regiment (Volunteers)	Bristol
71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment (Volunteers)	Bexley, London

The Household Cavalry

Name of Regiment	*Barracks (Bks) Station/ Location*
The Household Cavalry Regiment	Combermere Bks, Windsor
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment	Hyde Park Bks, Knightsbridge, London

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will estimate the cost per unit of renovating *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Ridgback and *(c)* Jackal vehicles to long-term service; [36078]

(2) how many *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Ridgback and *(c)* Jackal vehicles will remain in long-term service. [36079]

Peter Luff: The Mastiff, Ridgback and Jackal vehicles were purchased as urgent operational requirements, specific to the conditions and threats faced in Afghanistan by our armed forces. No decision has yet been taken as to whether any of the 1,000 plus vehicles so far purchased will be taken into the core equipment programme. The cost of renovating any vehicles will depend on the number of vehicles to be taken into the core equipment programme and the state of repair of these vehicles on their return from theatre.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18726]

Peter Luff: The Department currently has over 500 pay-related allowances and payments in addition to salary available to civilian staff, the majority of which are listed on the People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=us131&cat=pay_and_expenses
&actp=list.htm

Travel and subsistence claims and transfer allowances are payable to civilian staff, in addition to salary. These are listed on the PPPA website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=pr200&cat=travel_and_subsistence
&actp=list.htm

Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment in each year since 1997 is not held in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, information is available from July 2007, but will take a short while to compile. I will write to my hon. Friend with the information as soon as possible.

As the strategic defence and security review made clear, we intend to simplify the allowance structure, as part of an update of the current package of terms and conditions of service.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18725]

Mr Robathan: The information is as follows:

Non-consolidated performance awards—MOD: A close and effective link between pay and performance is a key element of the reward arrangements for the civil service. The performance element of pay is colloquially known as a bonus, but it is a misleading description because the performance-related element of pay is not additional, it is part of the departmental pay bill.

For the senior civil service (SCS) performance incentives are paid primarily as non-consolidated performance payments. Any award is based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed against their peers and awards are made to those judged to have made the greatest in-year contribution to business objectives. There is no restriction on the nature of the contribution but it must benefit the Department or defence more widely. Recommendations for awards are considered by moderation committees and must be linked to clear evidence of delivery.

All satisfactory performers at SCS level were eligible to be considered for a non-consolidated performance award in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and the MOD pay strategy.

Financial year 2003-04 was the first year in which the MOD paid non-consolidated performance awards to any of its staff.

The following table details how much was paid to members of the SCS in non-consolidated performance payments by financial year.

Senior fixed term employees are individuals who are recruited through fair and open competition from outside the civil service. Those employed as senior fixed term appointees (FTAs) are on individual contracts and have a higher percentage of pay set to performance awards which are judged against stringent and stretching delivery based objectives. Some have staged payments and it is now usual to pay a smaller annual performance award with the remainder deferred for two to three years and judged against the delivery of medium to longer term objectives. Performance is judged by line management with assistance from senior officials, stakeholders, remuneration committees and in some cases internal audit.

Details of how much has been paid in non-consolidated awards and to how many SCS each year are shown in tables 1 and 2. Table 3 shows the monetary values of the largest non-consolidated payments made in each year to the combined SCS population of permanent staff and fixed term appointees.

Table 1—SCS permanent staff

	Performance year						
	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
	Financial year						
	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Number of awards paid	169	195	187	186	181	181	136
Value of awards paid (£)	995,500	1,594,500	1,501,700	1,325,700	1,178,500	899,822	711,737

Table 2—SCS fixed term appointees

	SCS FTA performance year						
	2009-10	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
	Financial year						
	2010-11	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Number of awards paid	[1]17	27	16	10	12	16	13
Value of awards paid (£)	338,122	838,393	333,915	78,874	80,478	119,688	80,347

[1] Six yet to be decided

Table 3—Top 20 highest non-consolidated awards for combined SCS population

Financial year	*£*
2010-11	49,937
	49,900
	35,113
	25,755
	24,360
	22,153
	17,000
	15,750
	15,605
	15,000
	15,000
	13,800
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,500
	12,485
	10,674
2009-10	84,563
	75,000
	72,540
	55,350
	50,000
	50,000
	48,720
	48,000
	31,470
	30,750
	30,000
	30,000
	25,765
	24,101
	22,888
	21,337
	21,033
	16,200
	15,000
	15,000
2008-09	88,296
	61,250
	50,000
	48,000
	37,675
	31,703
	30,780
	30,000
	30,000
	30,000
	27,600
	24,000
	23,085
	22,085
	22,000
	21,546
	20,480
	19,000
	17,163
	17,091
2007-08	63,000
	50,000
	48,000
	24,000
	21,000
	20,000
	18,468
	17,716
	17,600
	17,600
	17,340
	15,450
	15,341
	14,500
	14,500
	12,750
	12,750
	12,240
	10,690
	10,000
2006-07	19,253
	16,000
	14,721
	14,000
	14,000
	14,000
	14,000
	12,546
	11,000
	11,000
	11,000
	11,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
2005-06	14,340

Table 3—Top 20 highest non-consolidated awards for combined SCS population

Financial year	£
	12,250
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	10,000
	9,000
	9,000
	9.000
	7,863
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
	7,500
2004-05	11,358
	10,445
	9.821
	9,203
	8,777
	8.759
	8.695
	8.650
	8.600
	8,540
	8,463
	8,365
	8,256
	8,226
	8,226
	8,125
	7.400
	7,370
	7,069
	7,004

For staff below the SCS, non-consolidated performance awards are paid to staff who meet the eligibility criteria. Higher levels of award are available for those who have contributed most to the business. These awards are distributed on the basis of relative assessment among peers and are designed to encourage continuous high attainment against stretching objectives.

The MOD also operates an in-year non-consolidated payment scheme, the special bonus scheme (SBS), which rewards eligible MOD civilians for exceptional performance in a specific task or for the achievement of a professional qualification the use of which benefits MOD and the individual. Separate arrangements apply to Ministry of Defence police (MDP) officers.

In 2007 the Department moved to a new pay system and the ability to interrogate payments made through the SBS before this date has been diminished and therefore any effort now to try and access this data would require a disproportionate cost. SBS data is though available for financial years 2003-04 to 2006-07 because it was reported in previous parliamentary questions.

The following table details the total value of payments made to staff below the SCS by way of non consolidated performance payments and SBS awards by financial year.

Financial year	*Total value of awards made (£)*	*Total number of awards made*[1]
2003-04	24,113,406	39,369
2004-05	33,947,217	46,269
2005-06	43,038,937	49,093
2006-07	41,060,624	55,339
2007-08	46,256,490	61,878
2008-09	47,516,913	71,940
2009-10	44,231,916	66,585
2010-11	0	0

[1] It is not possible to state how many individuals received awards since the data is held as number of awards made and not the number of recipients.

Note:

Figures for financial year 2010-11 will not be available before 30 April 2011 since SBS awards are payable in year.

This response excludes information on staff below the SCS in MOD trading funds which have separate pay delegations.

With the exception of the National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force Museum, figures for the Department's non-departmental public bodies are included in the figures above.

Like the MOD, financial year 2003-04 was the first year in which non-consolidated performance awards were paid to staff at the National Museum of the Royal Navy. The following table details the total value of payments made to staff by way of non consolidated performance payments awards by financial year.

Financial year	*Total value of awards made (£)*	*Number of staff receiving awards*	*Value of largest 20 payments*
2003-04	12,100	19	£425-£1,300
2004-05	19,650	21	£625-£2,100
2005-06	21,860	20	£625-£2,025
2006-07	20,525	23	£300-£2,900
2007-08	21,750	29	£400-£1,560
2008-09	27,020	43	£400-£1,565
2009-10	5,203	37	All £141

The National Museum of the Royal Navy has no special bonus scheme.

The Museum does not keep records going back to 1997, but since 2004 non-consolidated performance awards and other payments have been available for staff employed by the museum and its trading subsidiary through one or more of the following:

a special bonus scheme (typically £7,000 per annum in total has been set aside and payments to staff have been of the order of £250 to £1,000, generally under 10 awards each year),

performance related pay (where the level of award has varied between a percentage-based amount or cash sum—both non consolidated—and is linked to the annual appraisal—individual payments typically being between £400 and £1,000 although in individual cases have been up to £3,000), costing the Museum approximately £100,000 per year,

'incentivised' contracts for key trading subsidiary managers (head of retail or head of corporate events) where payments have varied from zero to over £3,000, depending on the trading subsidiary's performance and a percentage-based award for more junior trading subsidiary staff (typically 1% of salary) the cost falling on the trading subsidiary,

in the case of the director general (until this year) through the non-consolidated performance award scheme applicable to senior civil servants, again linked to the annual appraisal process where payments in excess of £10,000 have been made, No award was made in 2009 and the system does not apply to the newly-appointed director general.

The largest payments made were to the director general under the conditions set out in the last paragraph and the directors (where performance awards were percentage-based) although these would have generally been below £5,000.

Other payments: The Department currently has over 500 pay-related allowances and payments in addition to salary available to civilian staff. The majority of which are listed on the People, Pay and Pensions Agency services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=us131&cat=pay_and_
expenses&actp=list.htm

In addition allowances and payments in addition to salary in regard to civilian travel and subsistence claims and transfer allowances are payable. These are listed on the PPPA services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=pr200&cat=travel_and_
subsistence&actp=list.htm

Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment in each year since 1997 is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost for such a large number of allowances and payments. Information is available from July 2007, but will take a short while to compile. I will write to my hon. Friend with the details as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Andrew Robathan to Priti Patel, dated 25 January 2011:

I undertook to write to you in relation to my answer to your Parliamentary Question on 11 November 2010 (Official Report, columns 439-45W), regarding bonuses and other payments in addition to salary paid to officials in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and its Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). My hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology (Peter Luff), also undertook to write to you in relation to his answer to your Parliamentary Question on 27 October 2010 (Official Report, column 374W) regarding the same subject. I shall respond to both questions.

The MOD currently has over 500 pay-related allowances and payments in addition to salary available to civilian staff, the majority of which are listed on the People, Pay and Pensions Agency services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=us131&cat=pay_and_
expenses&actp=list.htm

In addition, allowances and payments in addition to salary in regard to Civilian Travel and Subsistence Claims and Transfer allowances are payable. These are listed on the PPPA Services website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=pr200&cat=travel_and_
subsistence&actp=list.htm

Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment in each year for financial years 1997 to 2007 for the Department is not held in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost for such a large number of allowances and payments.

Information is available from 2007-2008. However, due to a change in pay systems not all personnel were on the payroll until July 2007. This information is attached for your reference, and will be placed in the Library of the House.

The MOD has two NDPBs which have separate pay and grading delegations, the National Museum for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force Museum. Information on the National Museum for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force Museum from 2004 will be placed in the Library of the House. Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment in each year for financial years 1997 to 2004 is not held by the Royal Air Force Museum in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Trident

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what preparatory work for the assessment phase for the replacement programme for Trident has been commissioned on *(a)* the hull structure and structural fittings, including on castings and forgings and on steel and control surfaces; *(b)* primary and secondary propulsion systems and *(c)* electrical generation, conversion and distribution, including turbo generators, platform management system software, main switchboards, internal communications, diesel generators, main static converters, main DC distribution, distribution convertors, cathodic protection system, the degaussing system, computer information systems, main battery, and remote visual surveillance system; from which companies such work has been commissioned in each case; and what the value is of each such contract. [35910]

Peter Luff: Two of the purposes of the concept phase of the programme to replace the Vanguard submarines are to identify technology and procurement options for meeting the requirement, and to provide information to support initial gate decisions.

During the concept phase the Ministry of Defence has placed contracts with Rolls-Royce Power Engineering plc that include design and development work for the primary propulsion plant, with design verification and validation activities, to a value of some £220 million. A number of technical demonstrator contracts have also been placed with industry and other bodies to inform work on the options and recommendations made in the initial gate business case.

Some of this work will inform decisions on the purchase of the long lead items listed in the question, but further information is not held centrally and to attempt to reconcile the information against the list of long lead items given could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what work his Department has commissioned on spatial arrangements covering boat compartments under the assessment phase of the Vanguard submarine replacement for Trident programme to date; and what the monetary value is of each contract for such research and design work; [35907]

(2) what enabling work has been contracted on *(a)* value engineering and *(b)* the management of design margins under the assessment phase of the Vanguard submarine replacement for Trident programme; what the monetary value is of each such contract; and how much has been spent under each such contract to date; [35908]

(3) what contracts have been placed to undertake research and development work on *(a)* combat system design and engineering and *(b)* primary and secondary propulsion design and engineering for the assessment phase of the replacement programme for Trident; and what the value is of each such contract; [35911]

(4) what contracts have been placed to undertake research and development work on *(a)* combat system design and engineering and *(b)* primary and secondary propulsion design and engineering in respect of the assessment phase for the Vanguard submarine replacement programme for Trident; and what the monetary value is of each such contract; [36065]

(5) which companies have been contracted to date *(a)* to deliver System Drawings and Equipment Technical Specifications and *(b)* to demonstrate system performance and compliance with system functional requirements under the assessment phase for the Vanguard submarine replacement for Trident programme; and what the monetary value is of his Department's contract with each such company. [35923]

Peter Luff: No such contracts have been placed as the programme to replace the Vanguard Class submarine has yet to enter the assessment phase.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of long-term trends in hospital admittances for alcohol consumption by teenagers. [35802]

Anne Milton: Alcohol misuse is a major public health issue. We know that teenagers can be especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of drinking. 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', published in December 2010, sets out how we can best harness the effects of individuals, families, local and national government and the private, voluntary and community sectors to take better care of our children's health and development.

The Government's new drug strategy, published in December 2010, includes measures to prevent young people's alcohol misuse by providing accurate information, simplified guidance for schools and a review of Personal Social Health and Economic education (PSHE).

Data on the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions are collected by the Health and Social Care Information Centre and published in their annual Statistics on Alcohol, England report. The most recent estimates show that hospital admissions of teenagers aged 13 to 15 have started to decrease, while hospital admissions for 16 to 19 and 20 to 24-year-olds are still increasing. Estimates of the number of teenage alcohol-related hospital admissions is given in the following table.

Estimate of alcohol-related admissions for selected age groups for the years 2002-03 to 2009-10 in England

	Admissions		
	13-15 years	*16-19 years*	*20-24 years*
2002-03	3,804	13,777	18,210
2003-04	4,313	15,075	20,290
2004-05	4,337	16,994	22,599
2005-06	4,700	19,792	25,461
2006-07	4,578	20,583	26,447
2007-08	4,250	21,503	27,862
2008-09	3,317	20,691	28,693
2009-10	3,331	21,470	30,488

Notes:

1. Estimate of Alcohol-related admissions

Alcohol-related admissions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is estimated, based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

The application of the NWPHO methodology was updated in summer 2010 and is now available directly from HES. As such, information about episodes estimated to be alcohol related may be slightly different from previously published data.

2. Age at start of episode

This derived field, calculated from episode start date (epistart) and date of birth (dob), contains the patient's age in whole years

3. Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode (FAE) is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FAEs are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

4. Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in national health service practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Cancer: Health Services

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Cancer Network on his proposed reform of NHS structures; [35530]

(2) what plans he has for the future relationship between cancer networks and *(a)* the NHS Commissioning Board, *(b)* Public Health England and *(c)* GP consortia. [35531]

Paul Burstow: Cancer networks have had a crucial role in improving the quality of cancer treatment and patient experience of care—they have helped commissioners, providers and patients work together to plan and deliver high quality cancer services. We know that general practitioner consortiums will need commissioning support, and cancer networks will be well placed to provide that.

We have said in 'Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer' that next year there will be funding for cancer networks to support commissioning. However, we will not pre-empt future decisions by the NHS Commissioning Board by committing funding beyond 2011-12.

Cancer networks currently play a role in promoting the prevention and early detection of cancer. In the future, Public Health England might wish to work with cancer networks on these issues.

No recent discussions have taken place between Ministers and representatives of cancer networks.

Cannabis: Mentally Ill

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the potential relationship between cannabis and skunk cannabis and psychosis or schizophrenia; and if he will make a statement. [36118]

Anne Milton: The Government asked the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to reassess the latest evidence on the health harms of cannabis, including the risks to young people in 2007.

Their report, 'Cannabis: Classification and Public Health (2008)', was published in May 2008 and found a probable but weak causal link between psychotic illness and cannabis use, but whether this will become stronger with the wider use of higher potency cannabis remains uncertain.

Subsequently, in 2009 we updated the FRANK website, with new information on the harms of cannabis reflecting the scientific consensus.

Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what NHS treatment is available for persons *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* 18 and over for addiction to cannabis or skunk cannabis; and if he will make a statement. [36119]

Anne Milton: Psychosocial interventions are the mainstay of treatment for cannabis misuse for people of all ages. 'Drug misuse and dependence UK guidelines on clinical management (2007)' notes that there are no medications suitable for treating cannabis misuse and advises that clinicians should consider psychosocial interventions, especially brief motivational interventions in mild cases. More heavily dependent misusers may require structured treatment. In cases of co-morbidity with depression and anxiety, treatment will include cognitive behavioural therapies.

With regard to under-18s, local authorities will be supported in carrying out a local needs assessment and planning for the full range of services that will respond to young people's substance misuse needs, and also enable them to have clear protocols in place to meet the needs of vulnerable young people.

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under the age of 18, *(b)* between 18 and 24, *(c)* between 24 and 30 and *(d)* 30 and above were treated for cannabis addiction in each of the last 10 years. [36223]

Anne Milton: The following tables show the number of people in treatment for cannabis use, broken down by age.

Trends in age group for those in treatment for cannabis use

	18-24	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40+*	*Total*
2005-06	4,735	1,910	1,654	1,325	1,481	11,105
2006-07	5,501	2,093	1,760	1,488	1,815	12,657
2007-08	5,717	2,199	1,730	1,431	1,928	13,005
2008-09	6,205	2,321	1,672	1,390	1,937	13,525
2009-10	6,665	2,505	1,733	1,321	2,085	14,309

Source:
Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Under 18s in treatment for cannabis use

	Number
2005-06	9,043
2006-07	10,824
2007-08	12,021
2008-09	12,642
2009-10	13,123

Source:
Substance misuse among young people: the data for 2009-10

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse assumed responsibility for the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) in 2003. The introduction of a new NDTMS methodology in 2008-09 means that year-on-year comparable trend data are only available from 2005-06.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35786]

Mr Simon Burns: Earlier in 2010 the Communications Directorate in the Department of Health commissioned work to help the Department communicate better with the public, staff and patients.

This work comprised a review of a large body of research existing within the Department which can be described as "message testing". As a result of this review, Department of Health Communications has produced a source book which provides practical, evidence-based principles that can be used by anyone within the Department who is writing communications for both internal and external audiences. It sets out in clear terms the type of language which both public and national health service staff find clear, unambiguous and jargon free.

We are currently working on ways in which the findings from this project can be disseminated across the Department.

Departmental Manpower

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on departmental manpower, what the *(a)* organisations and *(b)* job titles are of the six members of the Steering Group below Senior Civil Service level. [35857]

Anne Milton: The following table gives the details of the organisations and job titles of the six members of the steering group below senior civil service level:

Organisation	*Title*
Department of Health, Health and Wellbeing Division	Programme Manager, Drugs Policy
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	Senior Academic Advisor
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	Programme Manager
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority	Strategy Business Manager
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority	Specialist in Self Medication
Department of Health, Medicines Pharmacy and Industry	Policy Manager, Community Pharmacy

Depressive Illnesses

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess long-term trends in rates of depression among those aged *(a)* 15 to 19, *(b)* 20 to 24 and *(c)* 65 years and over. [35799]

Paul Burstow: This information is not included in the Department's regular statistical terms and is not available for the age groups requested. However, some information is available from the report 'Adult Psychiatric Morbidity in England, 2007—Results of a Household Survey', published jointly by the Office of National Statistics and the National Health Service Information Centre. A copy has been placed in the Library. The following table gives information on the percentage of people in the available age groups who were suffering from a mixed anxiety and depression disorder in 1993, 2000 and 2007.

Percentage

Age group	*16-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65-74*
1993	8.3	8.4	6.8	5.0	—
2002	9.9	9.9	9.3	7.5	5.2
2007	10.5	8.5	11.2	8.0	6.4

Drugs: Misuse

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his review of prescription drug addiction; and what consultation on that review he proposes to undertake following publication. [35856]

Anne Milton: The reports commissioned to gather evidence on addiction to medicines will be published early this year and we expect this to be before Easter recess. Following publication, we will be involving interested parties to determine the future direction of policy and service planning.

Health Services

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had on integration between hospital consultants and GPs in order to improve patient pathways; and if he will make a statement. [35735]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" marked the start of the consultation on the Government's vision to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner (GP) practices. The Government's response to the White Paper published in December 2010, "Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps", outlined the views expressed, including on partnership working between hospital consultants and GPs.

The views expressed during the consultation highlighted the importance of multi-professional involvement in commissioning.

The Government recognise that commissioning by consortia is not just about GPs—good commissioning and designing care pathways will need to involve a wide range of clinicians. But we think that consortia of GP practices are also best placed to use the wealth of expertise. This is why the Health and Social Care Bill provides for consortia to ensure that they have appropriate advice from professionals with expertise in health.

Influenza: Vaccination

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates the seasonal influenza advertising campaign was launched in each of the last five years. [36263]

Anne Milton: Seasonal influenza vaccination campaigns were run in 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. In 2009-10, the campaign started in late September. In 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, the campaigns started in October.

Lorazepam

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1265-8W, on benzodiazepines, what is meant by the term 'not confirmed' which was given as the legislative basis for 17 generic lorazepam licenses. [35855]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency holds data on medicinal products on an electronic database. The database is searchable and can be used to bring back information such as the legal basis of an application as requested in relation to the lorazepam products. Historically, the legal basis of an application has not been recorded in a searchable form and thereafter this has been established by manually reviewing available records.

Where the precise legal basis has not been confirmed from the manual search that has been shown as 'not confirmed'. However, the reply of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1265-8W, was clear in explaining that the applications would have been made under article 4.8a (of directive 65/65/EEC) which made provision for an abridged application, that is, an application made without supplying results of toxicological tests and clinical trials.

MMR Vaccine

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many infants have suffered *(a)* allergic, *(b)* serious, *(c)* critical and *(d)* fatal reactions to the MMR vaccine in each of the last five years. [35841]

Anne Milton: Reports of suspected adverse reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme, the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme collects ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom for all medicines and vaccines.

Between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2010, the MHRA has received a total of 418 UK spontaneous 'suspected' ADR reports associated with the MMR vaccine in children aged five years or under. During this time, at least 5 million doses of MMR vaccine have been given in the United Kingdom. The following table provides a breakdown of these reports.

	Total number of:			
	ADRs	*serious ADRs*	*allergic ADRs*	*fatal ADRs*
2006	108	55	2	2
2007	59	25	1	2
2008	76	31	1	0
2009	82	40	2	3
2010	93	51	2	1

It is important to note that such reports relate to suspected adverse reactions. Reports may be adverse reactions to the vaccine, they may be related to the process of vaccination rather than to the vaccine itself (e.g. nervousness or anxiety about needle injection); or they may be purely coincidental events that would have occurred anyway in the absence of vaccination (e.g. events due to underlying medical conditions). These reports cannot therefore be used to calculate the true frequency of adverse reactions.

MRSA

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the number of cases of MRSA. [36067]

Mr Simon Burns: Although the national health service has made significant reductions in the number of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemias (bloodstream infections), this Government are determined to do all they can to support health and adult social care providers to make further improvements. From the outset, through the coalition agreement, this Government made clear that they expected the NHS to adopt a zero tolerance approach to all health care associated infections (HCAIs), including MRSA.

The "NHS Operating Framework 2011-12", published in December, requires the NHS to continue prioritising the achievement of the MRSA Objective, as well as the new Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) Objective. These Objectives, through their successful implementation, will have a significant impact on reducing variation by moving all organisations towards the performance of the best and consequently will at the same time reduce numbers at a national level.

We have also, from the end of December 2010, extended the previous requirement for the NHS to screen all relevant elective admissions to also include relevant emergency admissions.

To support the wide availability of data to help drive further reductions in MRSA, we have introduced weekly publications of data for both MRSA bloodstream infections and C. difficile infections at hospital-site level.

We are also committed to ensuring that the NHS continue to have access to evidence-based guidance in order to reduce the number of all HCAIs, including MRSA, through the implementation of effective infection prevention and control practices. As part of this commitment, a comprehensive suite of updated guidance was published on the Department's "Clean, Safe Care" website on 6 January 2011.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 "Code of Practice for health and adult social care on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related guidance", which the Care Quality Commission use as a basis for assessing compliance with the registration requirement on cleanliness and infection control, has been a driver for improvement in the hospital setting. We extended the scope of the Code to adult social care settings from October 2010 and will include primary care in due course so that we can ensure that all settings where patients receive care and treatment operate comparable infection prevention and control practices.

Multiple Sclerosis

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the multiple sclerosis clinical guidelines will be reviewed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; when he expects his Department's review of the guidelines to commence; and if he will make a statement; [35174]

(2) if he will review the multiple sclerosis clinical guideline for the purpose of ensuring that it is up-to-date. [36022]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) routinely reviews its published guidance, but we understand that it has not at this point set out a timescale for considering whether a review of its clinical guideline on multiple sclerosis is appropriate.

NICE is an independent body and the Department does not review the clinical guidelines it produces.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Community Care

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had on the acquisition of community assets by foundation trusts which have taken over community services; and if he will make a statement. [35734]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has discussed with the national health service, HM Treasury, the Government Property Unit and the Homes and Communities Agency the transfer of assets currently owned by NHS primary care trusts (PCTs) that support the delivery of community services.

On 6 January 2011, the Department announced in support of the Transforming Community Services agenda that all aspirant community foundation trusts would have the opportunity to acquire PCT owned estate that supports the services they are taking over. The future ownership and management of the remaining estate owned by PCTs is being considered.

Obesity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of *(a)* childhood and *(b)* adult obesity was in each (i) local authority area, (ii) health authority area and (iii) constituency in each year for which figures are available. [35796]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of obese children in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables", Child trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for children aged two to 15 in England for the years 1995 to 2009. This information is available from the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of children aged two to 15 recorded as obese by strategic health authority (SHA) for 2008 is available in Table 13.3 on page 327 of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness". The information is available from the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

Further information on the prevalence of obesity in children at a primary care trust (PCT) and local authority (LA) level is available through the National Child Measurement Programme. Information is available for children in Reception (four to five years) and year six (10 to 11 years) for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Information showing prevalence of obesity among children in these two school years by LA, PCT, SHA and for England is available for each year from the following links:

Tables 2 and 3 of the accompanying excel file of the "National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2009/10 school year" report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2009-10-school-year

Tables 2 and 3 of the accompanying excel file of the "National Child Measurement Programme: England, 2008/09 school year" report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-england-2008-09-school-year

Table 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the accompanying excel file of "National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2007/08 school year", headline results report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-school-year-2007-08

Table 2, 3 and 4 of the accompanying excel file of "National Child Measurement Programme: results from the 2006/07 school year", headline results report is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/national-child-measurement-programme-results-from-the-2006-07-school-year

Information on the percentage of obese adults aged 16 and over in England is available in the "Health Survey for England—2009 trend tables", Adult trend tables, Table 4. Information is provided for adults in England for the years 1993 to 2009. This information is available from the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse09trends

The proportion of adults aged 16 and over recorded as obese by SHA for 2008 is available in Table 7.3 on page 194 of the "Health Survey for England—2008: Physical activity and fitness". The information is available from the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse08physicalactivity

All these publications have already been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of long-term trends in prescriptions for *(a)* headaches, *(b)* indigestion and *(c)* sleeping disorders; and if he will make a statement. [35801]

Mr Simon Burns: No such assessment has been undertaken. Prescribing figures for medicines classified in the British National Formulary (BNF) to treat the conditions listed, covering the latest available 10-year period, are provided. Information on the indication for which a medicine is prescribed, is not collected centrally.

Number of prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England for medicines classified in the British National Formulary (BNF) to treat headaches, indigestion and sleeping disorders

Thousand

	BNF section 4.7 Analgesics[1]	*BNF section 1.1 Dyspepsia and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease*[2]	*BNF section 1.3 Antisecretory drugs and mucusoal protectants*[2]	*BNF section 4.1.1 Hypnotics*[3]
2000	42,849.1	6,936.3	17,231.0	10,645.2
2001	44,017.3	6,672.4	18,951.3	10,709.3
2002	44,698.7	6,356.3	20,613.2	10,673.7
2003	45,779.2	6,047.2	22,392.7	10,638.8
2004	46,553.5	5,847.4	24,524.3	10,520.0
2005	47,624.3	5,457.0	26,949.8	10,069.3
2006	48,927.4	5,030.1	29,571.1	9,924.4
2007	51,600.8	4,947.1	32,669.4	10,072.1
2008	54,511.5	4,874.7	36,068.6	10,127.1
2009	57,455.2	4,780.9	39,660.0	10,250.9

[1] There are no specific drugs for headache and so the figures are for all medicines in BNF section 4.7 analgesics, including those used for migraine.

[2] Indigestion is usually treated with antacids, antisecretory drugs or mucusoal protectants. The figures are for BNF sections 1.1 Dyspepsia and gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and 1.3 Antisecretory drugs and mucusoal protectants. Some of the drugs in section 1.3 are also used for other purposes such as in the treatment of ulcers.

[3] Most sleeping disorders would be treated with a short course of hypnotics, as listed in BNF section 4.1.1 Hypnotics. Some of these drugs may be used for other treatments.

Source:
Prescription cost analysis (PCA) system

Smoking: Health Services

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people attended NHS smoking cessation services in each quarter since 1 April 2009. [35979]

Anne Milton: Information on people setting a quit date, through the national health service stop smoking services, and successful quitters by quarter since 1 April 2009, is shown in the following table:

Number of people in England setting a quit date and successful quitters[1] since 1 April 2009

Quarters	*Number setting a quit date*	*Number of successful quitters*	*Percentage who successfully quit*
April to June 2009[2]	185,852	89,358	48
July to September 2009[2]	167,423	79,842	48
October to December 2009[2]	161,056	79,962	50
January to March 2010[2]	243,206	124,792	51
April to June 2010[3]	183,030	85,749	47
July to September 2010[3]	158,425	76,504	48

[1] A client is counted as a successful quitter smoking at the four week follow-up appointment if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after quit date.

[2] Quarterly Data, which has been finalised by The Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics.

[3] Quarterly data has been published for the first two quarters of 2010-11. This data remains provisional until the end of year 2010-11 report is published, expected to be in August 2011.

Source:

The Health and Social Care Information Centre, Lifestyle Statistics

Only people who set a quit date through the NHS stop smoking services are included in the Quarterly Monitoring Returns. Those who attend the service but do not set a quit date are not included.

The data on the number of quit attempts for quarters April to June 2010 and July to September 2010 are provisional.

Information on people setting a quit date and successful quitters, by quarter, 2001-02 to 2009-10 is contained within table 2.2 of "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England; April 2009 to March 2010".

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people made calls to the NHS stop smoking quitline in each quarter since 1 April 2009. [35981]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of people who made calls to the national health service stop smoking quitline in each quarter since 1 April 2009:

		Number
Q1	April-June 2009	60,131
Q2	July-September 2009	50,181
Q3	October-December 2009	48,543
Q4	January-March 2010	137,126
Q1	April-June 2010	24,740
Q2	July-September 2010	20,497
Q3	October-December 2010	18,123

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to public health advertising campaigns on smoking in each quarter since 1 April 2009. [35982]

Anne Milton: The following table shows how much funding the Department has allocated to public health advertising campaigns on smoking in each quarter since 1 April 2009:

		£
Q1	April-June 2009	1,738,880
Q2	July-September 2009	2,792,414
Q3	October-December 2009	4,374,811
Q4	January-March 2010	5,887,332
Q1	April-June 2010	85,836
Q2	July-September 2010	0
Q3	October-December 2010	110,854

A total budget figure for the 2010-11 financial year cannot be provided at this stage because detailed planning for additional marketing communications work is underway and allocations for advertising media have not yet been finalised.

Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from Central Office of Information official turnover figures.

These figures are provisional for 2010 because the invoicing for some campaigns run towards the end of the year has not yet been completed.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the medical advice on vaccination against swine influenza in view of the death of Lana Ameen. [35166]

Anne Milton: The Government's policy on influenza vaccination is informed by the expert advice of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). In their statement of 23 July, JCVI recommended that those children with clinical conditions which put them more at risk from the effects of influenza should be offered the vaccine.

JCVI met on 30 December to review the latest evidence on this issue. Following the meeting, the JCVI Chairman assured the Secretary of State for Health that this advice remains appropriate, and recommended that efforts be focused on maximising vaccine uptake among all those in the risk groups. As with all vaccination programmes, JCVI will keep this matter under review.

Worcestershire Royal Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of costs *(a)* incurred to date and *(b)* to be incurred in the remaining period of the private finance initiative contract for the Worcestershire Royal Hospital. [35816]

Mr Simon Burns: The cost incurred to date in respect of the private finance initiative (PFI) contract for Worcester Acute Hospitals National Health Service Trust since the new hospital opened in March 1999 is estimated to be £233.1 million. This is the total annual unitary payments paid by the national health service trust to the private sector consortium for all the services it provides under the contract such as construction, provision of building maintenance and facilities management such as catering, cleaning and portering, information technology and equipment provision and replacement.

This figure is based on the audited summarisation schedules of the trust for 2003-04 to 2008-09 held by the Department (which it only has for six years on the same accounting standard); and estimates for 1999-2000 to 2002-03 and 2009-10 based on other information held and standard assumptions about inflation.

The estimated cost to be incurred for the remaining 19 years of the PFI contract is £619 million. This is a projection based on the estimated payment for 2009-10 uprated annually using a retail prices index (RPI) figure of 2.5% (used as a long-term average estimate). It must be noted that the annual unitary payments fluctuate both up and down as a result of contractor performance, additional services requested by the trust or taken out, the effects of refinancings and changes to RPI, so these figures are only estimates.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Halifax constituency claim the mobility component of disability living allowance. [35956]

Maria Miller: The information is reproduced in the following table.

Recipients of the mobility component of disability living allowance in Halifax parliamentary constituency. May 2010

	Number
Higher rate	2,970
Lower rate	1,630
Total	4,600

Notes:
1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Parliamentary constituency of claimant (Westminster). These constituencies are used for the Westminster Parliament 2010.
5. Data are published on the Department's website at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability Living Allowance: Reading West

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Reading West constituency were in receipt of *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* employment support allowance or incapacity benefit at the commencement of each financial year since 1997-98. [35850]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Number in receipt of incapacity benefits, employment and support allowance and disability living allowance in Reading West parliamentary constituency

	DLA	*IB/SDA*	*ESA*
May 2010	3,680	2,570	—
May 2009	3,380	2,720	—
May 2008	3,180	2,960	—
May 2007	2,980	2,950	—
May 2006	2,860	2,970	—
May 2005	2,750	2,950	—
May 2004	2,610	2,910	—
May 2003	2,460	2,700	—
May 2002	2,330	2,620	—
May 2001	2,100	2,670	—
May 2000	2,100	2,680	—
May 1999	2,000	2,400	—
May 1998	1,900	2,700	760
May 1997	1,900	2,900	360

Notes:
1. May 1997 to May 1999 incapacity benefit figures and May 1997 to May 2001 disability living allowance figures are based on sample data and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. 5% sample figures are rounded to the nearest hundred, and 100% case loads to the nearest 10.
3. 5% sample figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% WPLS totals.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
5. Published benefit data reflect the 2010 parliamentary constituencies from May 2010 data onwards. Prior to May 2010 the Westminster parliamentary constituencies for 2005 have been used.
6. DLA figures are in payment.

Source:
1997-99 IB/SDA figures and 1997-2001 DLA figures Information Directorate 5% samples IB/SDA 2000 onwards, DLA 2002 onwards and ESA figures DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Employment and Support Allowance

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 252W, on incapacity benefit: unpaid work, if he will make it his policy to ensure that persons found to be fit for work are ineligible to claim employment and support allowance; and if he will make a statement. [36211]

Maria Miller: People who have been found fit for work following a work capability assessment will not be eligible to claim employment and support allowance as they will no longer meet the eligibility conditions for that benefit. They may be eligible to claim other benefits.

It should be noted that people claiming benefits on the grounds of incapacity can undertake a range of activities, including certain unpaid work and continue to be entitled to benefit. These rules are known as permitted work.

The permitted work rules allow customers in the Work Related Activity Group to retain all their ESA for up to a year while undertaking paid work, provided earnings are below £95.00 a week and the hours worked do not exceed 16 hours a week.

People in the Support Group, who are less likely to move into full-time work, are able to undertake permitted work on an indefinite basis. Unlike claimants in the Work Related Activity Group, they are not limited to an overall period of a year, provided that earnings do not exceed £95.00 per week and the hours worked do not exceed 16 hours a week.

The permitted work rules strike a delicate but important balance between, on the one hand, encouraging customers to build their confidence, undertake some part-time paid work, and plan a gradual move to sustained employment, while continuing to receive benefit, and, on the other, providing the incentive for them to move off benefit entirely and into full-time work, in line with the Government's overall approach.

Housing Benefit

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account he took of paragraph 7.8 of the consultation, 'Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing', in the drafting of paragraph 70 of his Department's impact assessment, Housing Benefit: Changes to Local Housing Allowance Arrangements, on the abolition of the five bedroom rate for housing benefit. [31348]

Steve Webb: The average five bedroom local housing allowance rate is £15,288 per year. We are not saying that families cannot live in properties with more than four bedrooms but the choices these families make must be affordable and sustainable. We are ensuring that housing benefit reflects the aspiration of families who manage without benefit and who make housing choices that their budgets can support.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the single room rate is to be applied to housing benefit. [35742]

Steve Webb: The shared room rate in local housing allowance and the single room rent for pre-local housing allowance cases are only applicable to housing benefit tenants living in the private rented sector.

Housing Benefit: Job Seeker's Allowance

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be affected by the reduction in housing benefit for those who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in *(a)* 2013, *(b)* 2014 and *(c)* 2015; [27436]

(2) what methodology he used to calculate the number of people who will be encouraged to take up work as a result of the implementation of the 10% reduction in housing benefit for those on jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months; [27437]

(3) what proportion of the £110 million savings expected to be made from the implementation of the proposed 10% reduction in housing benefit for those on jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for over 12 months he expects to be made as a result of *(a)* lower payments to some JSA claimants and *(b)* a reduction in the number of JSA claimants consequent on people moving back into work. [27438]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. We will publish an equality impact assessment for the proposed changes to housing benefit announced at Budget 2010, in the normal way, accompanying the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Estimated savings made by reducing housing benefit entitlement for jobseekers after 52 weeks are based on information about the existing HB and JSA population. It is one of a number of measures designed to reduce expenditure on housing benefit and increase the financial incentive for people to work. For this reason it is not possible to take one measure in isolation in estimating how many people would move into work as a result and the estimated savings do not take into account the impact on benefit savings of this effect.

Housing Benefit: Leeds

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit to individuals in *(a)* Leeds City Council area and *(b)* Leeds Central constituency in each year from 1996-97 to 2009-10. [35529]

Steve Webb: Housing benefit (HB) data by parliamentary constituency are not available. Housing benefit expenditure data at local authority level can be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2010.xls

Housing Benefit expenditure for Leeds Local Authority is shown in the following table.

Leeds local authority housing benefit

	Expenditure £ million	
	Nominal terms	*Real terms 2010/11 prices*
1996-97	138.3	194.6
1997-98	138.0	189.3
1998-99	137.6	184.9
1999-2000	143.9	189.5
2000-01	143.6	186.7
2001-02	146.4	186.2
2002-03	156.6	193.0
2003-04	139.7	167.4
2004-05	149.4	174.2
2005-06	157.4	180.2
2006-07	163.4	181.0
2007-08	172.6	185.9
2008-09	192.6	201.8
2009-10	223.2	230.1

Note:
Real terms figures calculated using GDP deflators published at the Autumn Statement.
Source:
Local Authority subsidy claims

Housing Benefit: Reform

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he made of the accommodation requirements of large families in formulating his proposals for housing benefit reform. [30565]

Steve Webb: The average five bedroom local housing allowance rate is £15,288 per year. Capping at the four bedroom rate does not mean that families cannot live in properties with more than four bedrooms, but the choices these families make must be affordable and sustainable. We are ensuring that housing benefit reflects the aspiration of families who manage without benefit and who make housing choices that their budgets can support.

Incapacity Benefit: Ankylosing Spondylitis

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he made an estimate of the number of people in receipt of incapacity benefit on the grounds of a diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis in the last financial year. [32505]

Maria Miller: The following table gives the national numbers of incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants with a diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis, by duration of claim, as at May 2010.

	All	*Ankylosing spondylitis*
All	2,126,690	2,900
Up to 1 year	28,640	30
Over 1 year and up to 2 years	119,700	110
Over 2 years and up to 5 years	500,340	500
Over 5 years	1,478,010	2,260

The following table gives the national numbers of employment support allowance claimants with a diagnosis of ankylosing spondylitis, by duration of claim at May 2010

	All	*Ankylosing Spondylitis*
All	527,120	310
Up to 1 year	412,810	230
Over 1 year and up to 2 years	114,310	80

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. To qualify for IB/SDA, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the Personal Capability Assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on IB/SDA claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits, so for example, the decision for a customer claiming IB would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the Personal Capability Assessment; or on the effects of any associated health problems.
3. IB/SDA figures cannot be taken to represent numbers off work—they are merely the number of claimants of IB at a point in time. Any figures we supply cannot be taken to represent sick absences as they do not include short periods of sickness of 3 days or less or days of Statutory Sick Pay (payable by an employer). Together with this, the figures will include some unemployed persons as well as those who do not declare their employment status on making a claim.
4. Employment and support allowance (ESA). ESA replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Jobcentre Plus on the levels of employment vacancies available to jobseekers with *(a)* a physical disability and *(b)* other disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [35596]

Chris Grayling: In providing a free public employment service, Jobcentre Plus takes over 10,000 new job vacancies every working day, all of which are open to any applicant who meets the vacancy requirements. Jobcentre Plus will not accept any vacancies that appear to discriminate unlawfully.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

George Eustice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to vary the rate of interest used for calculating payments under the support for mortgage interest scheme for individuals who have fixed-rate mortgages. [34886]

Steve Webb: The standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest is currently 3.63% which is based on the Bank of England's August 2010 published average mortgage interest rate. This rate is based on information from around 25 banks and building societies which cover over 75% of all banks and building societies' mortgage business, and is a weighted average of all existing loans to households secured on dwellings from banks and building societies in the sample. The standard interest rate applies to all claimants who receive support for mortgage interest whatever their contractual mortgage interest rate or mortgage product. There are no plans to change these arrangements.

Claimants' actual interest rates were used in the past to calculate support for mortgage interest. But that method was abandoned in 1995, in favour of a standard interest rate, which has proved to be far more efficient and straightforward.

The pre-1995 arrangements, where claimants' actual rates were used by the department, were extremely complex to administer, prone to error and added cost. Reverting to that system carries an unacceptably high risk of increased overpayments and inefficiency, is resource intensive, and would not support the Government's aim of simplifying the benefit system.

Motability

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Motability cars were reclaimed in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [36035]

(2) what his policy is on the use of Motability cars reclaimed from those who are deemed to be no longer eligible for them; [36036]

(3) for what purpose the Motability car reclaimed from Mr Robert Oxley of Colchester on 17 January 2011 is now being used. [36037]

Maria Miller: I am unable to comment on individual cases and the information the hon. Gentleman request is not held by the Government, as Motability are an independent charitable organisation, wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme.

New Deal Schemes: Wirral

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people resident in Wirral South constituency have found employment through the New Deal in each year since 2001. [35199]

Chris Grayling: There have been 870 young people (aged between 18 and 24-years-old) resident in the Wirral South constituency, who have found employment through the New Deal since 2001.

Breakdowns of this information can be found in the following table.

The number of young people resident in the Wirral South constituency that have gained a job through the New Deal since 2001

	Gained a job
2001	100
2002	80
2003	90
2004	90
2005	70
2006	70
2007	120
2008	90
2009[1]	150
Total	870

[1] Latest data are to November 2009

Notes:

1. We can identify relevant individuals who have been recorded by DWP computer systems as participating on contracted provision offered through the following schemes: New Deal for Young People, New Deal for Lone Parents, and New Deal for Disabled People.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Information is only given from the most recent spell on New Deal.
4. Jobs include sustained and un-sustained jobs. Type of job gained; For New Deal for Young people and 25 plus a sustained job is a job from which a participant does not return to Jobseekers Allowance within 13 weeks; for NDLP a sustained job is a job recorded as lasting at least 13 weeks within the WPLS (Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study) database. Sustained jobs may include people who have had a subsidised job through the New Deal program (Employment option).
5. Information on type of job is not available for New Deal for Disabled People and New Deal for Partners.
6. Destination is measured within two weeks of leaving New Deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
7. Leavers to Employment—total includes those who left to employment but are also in receipt of a benefit, for example DLA.
8. Information on Leavers for New Deal for Disabled People is not available as no measure exists.
9. New Deal for Partners: in total 20 people began this New Deal in Wirral South constituency. Of these the number aged 24 or under was negligible.
10. Latest data are to November 2009.
11. Data on New Deal for Disabled People is from July 2001 (the programme was started in 1999); and New Deal for Partners is available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999).
12. Parliamentary constituency is for May 2010 boundaries.
13. The latest New Deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009).

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Pensioners

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have pensions that are classed as trivial. [36069]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

The current pensions tax rules allow individuals aged over 60 whose total pension savings are worth less than £18,000 to withdraw their savings as a lump sum. This is known as "trivial commutation".

The Government do not keep records of the number of trivial commutations made. However, the median pension wealth held by individuals aged 16 or over in 2006-08 was £6,500 for members of a defined contribution occupational pension scheme, and £12,000 for members of a personal pension[1]. Against this background, the Government believe the current trivial commutation limit remains appropriate.

[1] ONS Wealth and Assets Survey 2008/09, table 6.3

Pensioners: Barnsley

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners receive *(a)* the basic state pension and *(b)* pension credit in Barnsley East constituency. [36097]

Steve Webb: The information available is in the table.

Barnsley East parliamentary constituency

As at May 2010	*Number*
State pension recipients	17,710
Pension credit individual beneficiaries	6,560
Pension credit household recipients	5,170

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. State pension figures are for the total state pension caseload. Around 1% of state pension recipients are not in receipt of the basic state pension, but are receiving additional state pension only or graduated retirement benefit only.
3. Basic state pension only figures are not available by current 2010 parliamentary constituencies.
4. Pension credit household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves or on behalf of themselves and a partner. Individual beneficiaries are the number of claimants in addition to the number of partners for whom they are claiming, some of whom will not have reached the pension credit qualifying age.
5. Parliamentary constituencies are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
6. These data are published on the Department's website at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pensions

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what savings to the public purse his Department expects to make as a result of using the consumer prices index for the uprating of *(a)* benefits and *(b)* public sector pensions in (i) 2015-16 and (ii) each of the subsequent five years. [35883]

Danny Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The fiscal impact of the switch to CPI for the uprating of benefits, tax credits and public service pensions for the years up to 2014-1 5 is set out in Table 2.1 of the June Budget. Any estimates of the impact in later years would be highly uncertain, depending on both the trends in price indices and the underlying caseloads.

Remploy: Trade Unions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will meet trade union representatives from Remploy to discuss issues facing the Remploy work force; and if he will make a statement. [35594]

Maria Miller: I confirmed in the autumn following the spending review settlement, that the budget for Remploy Limited during the five-year modernisation period remains protected at £555 million despite the challenging fiscal conditions. The Remploy Employment Services arm of operations supported over 10,600 disabled and disadvantaged people into work in 2009-10.

The offer of voluntary redundancies in the Remploy factory business is a decision made by Remploy management to help the continuing operation of the businesses within that budget and to help ensure all employees have meaningful work. The choice of whether to accept the offer of voluntary redundancy is a matter for individual employees to take. By definition no member of staff at Remploy will be required to take voluntary redundancy.

I have met trade union representatives to discuss issues facing Remploy, most recently on 24 January.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the plan to reduce costs within Remploy recently presented to his Department by trade union members; and if he will make a statement. [35595]

Maria Miller: The Remploy Trade Union Consortium has outlined a number of cost saving proposals in their report 'Remploy: A New Strategy for the Employment of Disabled People'.

My officials and I have met and discussed these issues with trade union representatives including at a meeting on 24 January.

The day to day operational decisions are the responsibility of the Remploy board and directors. The trade union report has been passed onto Remploy for consideration.

Following the spending review settlement I can confirm that the five-year modernisation plan funding remains protected at £555 million despite challenging fiscal conditions.

Social Security Benefits: Crime

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has assessed the potential effects of planned reductions in benefits in England and Wales on projected crime rates. [35068]

Maria Miller: No assessment of effects on crime rates has been made. Although there is some evidence of an overall association between lower incomes and increases in crime, the impact of benefit changes affecting specific groups of recipients may be very different and there is not enough robust evidence to support such an assessment.

Social Security Benefits: Decreases

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants have had a benefit reduced or withdrawn on the ground of not actively seeking employment in the last 12 months. [36289]

Chris Grayling: Jobseeker's allowance is the benefit paid to unemployed people, and one of the conditions for receipt of jobseeker's allowance is that claimants must be actively seeking work. Therefore when a claimant no longer meets this entitlement condition, the benefit award is ended.

The latest information is as follows: between August 2009 and July 2010, 78, 460 disallowance decisions were enforced on the grounds of claimants not actively seeking employment.

Social Security Benefits: Learning Disability

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that people with learning difficulties *(a)* are given appropriate support or *(b)* are exempted from completing benefit entitlement forms. [35004]

Maria Miller: Jobcentre Plus provides appropriate and flexible support to ensure customers, regardless of their disabilities, are able to access its services. The majority of customers currently make their claims over the telephone to a contact centre. They are asked a range of questions to identify the most appropriate benefits available to them and the information is recorded electronically, removing the need for a claim form to be completed.

If a call of this type might prove difficult for a customer, they can consent to a representative giving the information on their behalf. Customers can involve third party support at any stage in the process to access services if they think it is necessary.

Increasingly, customers are opting to apply for jobseekers allowance online via the "Do it online" section of the Directgov website. This provides the flexibility to access Jobcentre Plus services from their own homes, at a pace that suits them and allows them to be assisted in completing the application by an advocate or representative. Customers can also submit an initial application for employment support allowance via the internet claim service.

Should a customer be unable to use either of the options above, clerical forms can be issued or, where appropriate, a face to face interview at the customer's local Jobcentre Plus office organised.

Pension Disability and Carers Service supports customers' claims to benefit in a range of ways dependent on individual circumstances. Customers can make a claim for their state pension by phone or online. Pension credit applications can be made by telephone or customers can download, print and complete an application form and post it free of charge to their pension centre. Where appropriate, a home visit will be arranged to assist with an application. A forms completion service provides support for those customers whose prefer to use the telephone.

The Department makes every effort to ensure its leaflets are accessible and achieve the Crystal Mark status. Leaflets are referred for accreditation to the Plain English Campaign and should meet Crystal Mark criteria.

While people with learning difficulties are not exempt from completing benefit claim forms, the Department has in place a range of support options to ensure that disabled people, including those with learning difficulties, are able to access the appropriate benefits and services.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average waiting time is for medical assessment appeals in *(a)* Rutherglen, *(b)* South Lanarkshire and *(c)* Scotland. [34377]

Maria Miller: Information on appeal waiting time is not available at the constituency level.

For new employment and support allowance (ESA) claims that were received in the Scotland Government Office Region (GOR) between October 2008 and August 2009, and have lodged an appeal and had their appeal heard by the end of July 2010, the average time for the appeal to be resolved is 24 weeks. For claims from the South Lanarkshire local authority area, the average time for an appeal to be resolved is 25 weeks.

Note that there will be some appeals that have not yet been resolved for this period so it is likely the average appeal times will increase when these cases come through.

This information is taken from benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and appeals data sourced from the Tribunals Service. Average appeal durations have been rounded to the nearest week.

Background notes

The data presented above uses the same source data as used to produce the official statistics report on the WCA last published in October 2010. The latest report can be found on the DWP website at the following link. These statistics are regularly updated and present the latest and most reliable data we hold. More information is available in the report.

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Constituency level data

Information on the home constituency of ESA claims is not recorded.

ESA appeals data

Data on people appealing against a fit for work decision is only available once the appeal has been heard and the result given. Since appeals take around six months to be completed on average, there is a significant delay between an appeal being lodged and the result being given. Data are presented for claims starting by August 2009 since we expect that the large majority of appeals for these cases will have been cleared to date. If we were to provide data on more recent cases it would be unreliable and probably underestimate the true number of appeals.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost to the public purse has been of appeals made against medical assessment decisions since May 2010. [34508]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, is only responsible for an element of the appeal process against medical assessment decisions relating to employment and support allowance (ESA). The majority of the process is handled by the Tribunal Service, part of the Ministry of Justice.

Within Jobcentre Plus the direct staff administration cost of ESA appeals for the period from May 2010 to December 2010, the latest period for which figures are available, was £8 million.

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners claiming benefits in the latest period for which figures are available. [34004]

Chris Grayling: An estimate of this number is not available.

Prisoners convicted of a criminal offence and given a term of imprisonment do not receive benefits.

An exception is made in certain housing benefit and council tax benefit cases, where the overall absence will not exceed 13 weeks, on the grounds that loss of the home or falling into council tax arrears in these circumstances would be an indirect and unjustified consequence of the punishment.

Additionally, payment of industrial injuries disablement benefit is suspended for up to a year and paid on release, on the grounds that this benefit is a compensation payment, rather than being paid to meet specific or general needs or to provide income maintenance.

Information on the number of prisoners who are in receipt of housing benefit, council tax benefit or industrial injuries disablement benefit is not available.

Unemployment: Disability

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure disabled people are not disproportionately affected by job losses; and if he will make a statement. [35593]

Maria Miller: We are keen to ensure that disabled people are not disproportionately affected by job losses and that they have the same employment opportunities and chances as everyone else to find and stay in work, regardless of their disability.

It is unlawful to dismiss a person because of their disability.

As part of this commitment, the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for a range of employment provision specifically aimed at disabled people:

Work Choice—launched on 25 October, provides tailored support to help disabled people who face the most complex barriers to employment find and stay in work and ultimately help them progress into unsupported employment, where it is appropriate for the individual. Work Choice is voluntary and available regardless of any benefits being claimed.

Access to Work—provides practical advice and financial support to employed disabled people above and beyond what the employer could reasonably provide, to help them overcome obstacles resulting from disability and thus stay in work.

In addition, Remploy is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions. It delivers a range of employment and development opportunities for disabled people under the Work Choice programme.

The Department for Work and Pensions also funds residential training for unemployed disabled adults whose needs cannot be met through any other Government-funded programmes.

Later this year, the Work Programme will be introduced, providing more personalised back-to-work support for unemployed people, including disabled people.

On 2 December, I announced in a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, columns 89-90WS, an independent review of the support the Government provide to disabled people who want to work. This review will be conducted by Liz Sayce, chief executive of the disability organisation RADAR.

Winter Fuel Payments

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the north-west and *(c)* England received winter fuel payments in each of the last five years. [35298]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

	Total number of payments made		
	England	*North-west Government office region*	*Wallasey parliamentary constituency*
2009-10	7,862,140	1,088,790	14,070
2008-09	7,713,430	1,071,420	13,940
2007-08	7,585,940	1,055,260	13,850
2006-07	7,405,680	1,031,320	13,540

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Some discrepancies have been found in the figures for 2005-06 and the household tables for that year are currently being revised.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005. Winter fuel payment figures for households for winter 2009/10 by 2010 parliamentary constituencies are scheduled for publication on 16 February 2011.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 27 January 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Poverty

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Bangladesh on their plans to reduce poverty; and if he will make a statement. [36173]

Mr Duncan: Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is visiting London this week and has had discussions with our Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and ministerial colleagues. I met her and the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, Dr Dipu Moni, yesterday. We had a good discussion about the future scale and scope of UK aid to Bangladesh. UK aid will be directed at helping Bangladesh achieve its poverty reduction goals, including better services in education and health for the poorest, especially women. We agreed on the importance of transparency and a strong focus on results.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department spent on decompression of employees in each year from 2005 to 2010; [36499]

(2) how many of his Department's employees were subject to decompression schemes in each year from 2005 to 2010; [36500]

(3) how much his Department spent on decompression of employees who had been stationed in Afghanistan in each year from 2005 to 2010; [36501]

(4) how many of his Department's employees who had been stationed in Afghanistan were subject to decompression schemes in each year from 2005 to 2010; [36502]

(5) what his Department's policy is on decompression of employees who have been stationed in Afghanistan; and whether there is a variation in policy according to rank or pay grade. [36503]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID) decompression policies and procedures support our employees who live and work in conflict zones. This allows them to have regular time away from the conflict zone and the opportunity to access support services.

DFID's policy on decompression of employees in Afghanistan is that employees spend six weeks in country and two weeks out of country. They also have the option of three weeks in country and one week out of country, provided that the total cost and time away do not exceed the costs for the six weeks/two weeks policy.

We encourage staff to talk to a counsellor on a routine basis every six months to ensure they continue to cope in the environment and when they leave Afghanistan, we have routine debriefing procedures to ensure they have the support they need to cope with returning from a difficult environment.

The policies apply to all staff regardless of rank and pay grade.

DFID does not publicise staff numbers for its overseas offices and does not hold a record of expenditure solely associated with decompression.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36189]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not issued any single tender contracts for a value above the EU public procurement threshold since the Secretary of State's appointment.

DFID has delegated procurement below the EU public procurement threshold to its global offices. Details of any single tenders issued are not centrally recorded and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries: Females

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget for overseas projects was spent on projects aiming to assist women and girls in the last three years for which figures are available. [36240]

Mr O'Brien: Achieving results for women and girls is one of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) six strategic priorities. DFID aims to assist women and girls throughout its project portfolio and also supports projects targeting specific issues related to women and girls and gender equality. Due to the cross cutting nature of gender policy is not possible to disaggregate a precise figure for total expenditure on projects aiming to assist women and girls.

Developing Countries: Microfinance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget for overseas projects was spent on microfinance projects for *(a)* both men and women and *(b)* women only in the last three years for which figures are available. [36237]

Mr O'Brien: The requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold consolidated data on expenditure on microfinance programmes as a proportion of the total overseas aid budget. Nor does DFID hold consolidated data on expenditure on microfinance projects by gender.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of microfinance projects in contributing to progress towards Millennium Development Goal Three: to promote gender equality and empower women. [36239]

Mr O'Brien: Financial inclusion programmes supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) demonstrate the positive impact that microfinance can have on women's empowerment. For example, DFID supports the Kashf Foundation in Pakistan, which provides financial services to women from low income communities. An assessment of the programme found that: 60% of clients took out loans to start new businesses; 34% of long-term clients experienced improvement in their economic situation; two-thirds increased their savings; and women's increased ability to contribute to the family income improved their status within the household.

We cannot assume, however, that women's empowerment is an automatic outcome of microfinance programmes. DFID is producing a toolkit to strengthen the design, implementation and measurement of programmes to empower women through improved financial inclusion. The toolkit will be launched in spring 2011.

Equality: Females

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to support women and girls and reduce gender inequality after the expiry of his Department's Gender Equality Action Plan in March 2011. [36353]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) business plan sets out how we will lead international action to improve the lives of girls and women in the period 2011-15 including by:

improving maternal health and access to family planning;

increasing the number of girls completing primary and secondary education;

promoting their economic empowerment through jobs and access to financial services; and

tackling violence against women and girls.

DFID's business plan is available on the No. 10 website and in the Library of the House.

Overseas Aid: Fraud

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many projects funded through UK official development aid were halted due to misuse of such funds by the recipients in each year since 2007-08. [34503]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Since April 2007, the Department for International Development (DFID) has stopped or withdrawn funds from a total of seven projects or programmes due to fraud or other abuse: one in 2008-09, two in 2009-10, and four to date during 2010-11. The total value withheld or withdrawn was £23 million.

DFID has rigorous systems and procedures to ensure effective oversight of its funding and to ensure that UK aid achieves maximum value for money—reaching and delivering results for its intended recipients. As I have previously stated, this Government have a zero tolerance approach to fraud, corruption and other misuse. DFID takes the strongest action where any such abuse of taxpayers' funds is proven, including disciplinary, civil or criminal action as appropriate against those responsible.

Overseas Aid: Gift Aid

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the aid classified as official development assistance (ODA) provided by UK non-governmental organisations funded through Gift Aid contributions in each year since 2007-08; and what method he used to estimate the proportion of UK ODA attributable to gift aided contributions. [34635]

Mr Duncan: The level of official development assistance provided by UK non-governmental organisations funded through Gift Aid is published in the Department for International Development's (DFID) annual publication "Statistics on International Development" which is available on the DFID website and in the Library of the House. The relevant figures for 2007-08 to 2009-10 are shown in the following table. These figures are estimated using returns provided by relevant organisations to DFID's Voluntary Agency Survey, conducted annually.

Financial year	*£000*
2007-08	43,672
2008-09	43,857
2009-10	43,891

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Attorney-General what single tender contracts the Law Officers' Departments have awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36176]

The Attorney-General: The CPS has only awarded two single tender contracts since May 2010, the details of which are as follows:

A contract for the services of a Management Receiver was awarded to a firm in December 2010. At the time of the award specific details of the case were confidential, and an open tender may have jeopardised an ongoing criminal investigation. The firm was selected from a short-list of companies who were successfully appointed to a framework contract for Management Receivers in 2010. The firm chosen to complete the work was selected based on their experience of similar work. The value of the contract is dependant on the final value of the assets confiscated.

A contract for legal advisory services was awarded in September 2010. The timeframe and complex nature of the work meant that it was appropriate to award a single tender contract. The value of the contract is estimated at £24,000.

The Treasury Solicitor's Department (Tsol) internal threshold for applying a competitive process to the purchase of goods and services is £3,000. Purchases with a value below this figure are subject to a single quotation/tender and value for money check, however it is not possible to identify most of the individual contracts which fall into this category without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The majority, by value, of purchases made by Tsol are for legal services. Tsol uses the Attorney-General's Panel Counsel (barristers) and the Litigation Catalogue (solicitor agents and litigation support services) to call-off services—both of these have been subject to competition and are managed by the Department.

Where legal services could not be commissioned from these two panels the work may have been awarded subject to comparable quotations. However, where the legal timetable or specific nature of the matter made it unrealistic, or significantly more costly, to seek more than one quotation the services will have been secured under a single tender arrangement. Legal services are classified as Part B services under the EU Procurement Rules which largely exempts them from the competition obligations under the EU Public Service Contracts Regulations.

Tsol awarded a contract for the supply of additional office furniture under a single tender process in December 2010 to Herman Miller for office furniture with a value of up to £30,000 over the next three years, this fell under the EU public procurement threshold. No other single awards have been made.

The remaining Law Officers' Departments have not awarded any single tender contracts during this period.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36191]

Mr Paterson: A single tender contract was awarded in October 2010 by the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains as part of the successful search for the remains of Peter Wilson, one of the disappeared. My Department considered this to be appropriate due to the specialised demands of the work and the security risks associated with an open tender process. The contract was below the EU public procurement threshold.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Canada: Animal Cruelty

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet his Canadian counterpart to discuss animal cruelty in the operation of rodeos; and if he will make a statement. [36651]

Alistair Burt: Ministers currently have no plans to raise this issue with their Canadian counterparts. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have made their Canadian counterparts aware of public concern in the UK about the practice of calf-roping at rodeos.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35785]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) aims to be as clear as possible in all its communication. Ministers and the FCO Board launched a diplomatic excellence initiative in November 2010 which will ensure there is a sharper focus on the use of precise, accurate English and avoiding jargon.

Departmental Official Cars

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on services supplied by the Government Car Service since May 2010. [34660]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office expenditure on all car services provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency covering use by officials and Ministers during the period 1 May 2010 to date is £121,000.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35407]

Alistair Burt: Four public appointments have been made since May 2010, to three men and one woman. These roles were four new Commissioners to the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC).

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35429]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign Secretary has appointed four new Commissioners to the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC). The MACC is a non-departmental public body of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. These positions are all unpaid.

Departmental Responsibilities

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what new *(a)* units and *(b)* teams have been established in his Department since May 2010; and what the (i) name, (ii) purpose, (iii) staffing level and (iv) budget for the first 12 months of operation is in each case. [34681]

Alistair Burt: As required, we readjust the size, staffing and structure of teams within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to meet our operational needs. We do not keep central records of each adjustment, and the information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Expenditure: Wines

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on wine since May 2010. [34652]

Mr Bellingham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 552W. Since then, Government Hospitality has spent £15,039 on replenishing stocks of English and French white wines.

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to increase the proportion of British ambassadorial posts recruited through open competition. [35975]

Alistair Burt: It is the normal practice for senior ambassadorial appointments to be made through competition open to members of all Government Departments. A recruitment process is currently under way for the position of consul general New York which is also open to applicants from outside the civil service. While there is a recruitment freeze for the civil service, jobs may only be opened to external recruitment in exceptional cases.

Senior Civil Servants

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* name and *(b)* salary is of each senior civil servant who has (i) moved posts within and (ii) left his Department since May 2010. [34679]

Alistair Burt: Under the Data Protection Principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), it is not possible to disclose the names or positions of each individual staff member. It would breach the fair processing principle: that the individual to whom the personal data relates has a reasonable expectation that the Department will hold that information in confidence.

Providing data on the salaries of the senior civil servants who have moved posts within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since May 2010 would be possible only at disproportionate cost. 28 senior civil servants have left the Department since May 2010.

Sri Lanka: Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the access afforded by the Sri Lankan authorities to the BBC to report on the proceedings of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission in that country. [36430]

Alistair Burt: Our high commission in Colombo regularly raises issues of concern relating to freedom of expression with the Sri Lankan Government, including on the issue of media access to the conflict-affected areas. Our high commission in Colombo is in regular contact with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) correspondent in Sri Lanka. However, we have not received any representation from the BBC asking for our assistance on this issue.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what public appointments she has made since her appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35425]

Lynne Featherstone: The Minister for Women and Equalities has made no public appointments since the coalition Government took office.

However, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) will shortly begin a campaign to recruit a new Commissioner to the Equality and Human Rights Commission. The remuneration for this post will be £500 per day for 20 to 30 days per year.

Government have set themselves the aspiration that by the end of the Parliament at least 50% of all appointees being made to the boards of public bodies will be women. Appointments will continue to be made on merit and Government will step up their efforts to attract qualified women to public positions and ensure that working practices and conditions are family-friendly. GEO and Cabinet Office are developing an action plan to support Departments to achieve more diverse appointments which will be published shortly.

Small Businesses: Pay

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether she has made an assessment of the effects on small businesses of a requirement to publish the salaries of male and female employees. [36402]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government are working with a range of key partners to develop a voluntary approach to equality reporting, including pay. Its purpose is to help employers recognise how to make the most of the talent available and to help individuals make the most of their skills and experience. The Government Equalities Office has no plans to require small businesses to publish the salaries of their employees and therefore has not made such an assessment.

UN Commission on the Status of Women

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities who will assume the responsibilities formerly carried out by the Women's National Commission representative at the forthcoming meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in February 2011. [36161]

Lynne Featherstone: We remain committed to continuing the strong, productive and fully engaged relationship with UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) attending the 55th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

The upcoming CSW session provides a timely opportunity to set in motion our plans for a more direct mechanism for engaging with women across the UK under a new model, including revitalising communication on international matters. A pre-CSW briefing meeting with Government officials and NGO representatives attending the CSW took place on 19 January. Building on that, the Government Equalities Office will continue to keep NGOs updated on UN developments and NGO co-ordination arrangements in the following weeks.

Moving forward, we will be consulting on the new model shortly and look forward to welcoming the views from the women's sector on how we might effectively engage with them on international priorities more widely.

JUSTICE

Courts: Closures

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* people, *(b)* people of pensionable age and *(c)* disabled people in the area served by each court proposed for closure who live further than one hour's travel by public transport from the proposed receiving court. [36937]

Mr Djanogly: The consultation response documents detail the percentage of the population in each area estimated to be within a 60 minute public transport commute of receiving courts. Due to the size and complexity of the data it would be necessary to analyse in order to estimate the number of people within each area who are of pensionable age or who are disabled and who live further than one hour's travel from a receiving court, such estimates have not been made.

The Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) that accompany each of the 16 HMCS area consultation responses papers identify the potential impacts of the court estate reform programme on different communities and groups of people.

Courts: Translation Services

Kwasi Kwarteng: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to minimise the cost of interpretation in the court system. [35598]

Mr Blunt: The Government propose making changes to the provision of interpretation and translation services across the justice sector, including the courts. We are currently engaging with the market to explore how interpretation and translation can be delivered more efficiently without compromising quality. The exercise is a "competitive dialogue" process which allows us to explore with potential providers the best way for them to meet our requirements. The written ministerial statement I issued on 15 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 46WS, provides more details.

Drug Testing Treatment Orders

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been subject to drug testing treatment orders since their inception; and how many people were subject to such an order in the latest period for which figures are available. [36580]

Mr Blunt: The drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) was rolled-out to courts across England and Wales from October 2000. From April 2005, the drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) gradually replaced the DTTO as the primary means for adult offenders to address their drug misuse as part of a community order or suspended sentence order.

The number of DTTOs and DRRs made in each year since October 2000 is shown in the following table.

Drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs)/drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) commencements

	Number
2000-01[1]	1,256
2001-02	4,854
2002-03	6,145
2003-04	8,519
2004-05	10,323
2005-06	14,001
2006-07	15,798
2007-08	16,607
2008-09	17,642
2009-10	15,762

[1] Six months only (October 2000-March 2001).

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Enforcement: Fees and Charges

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to reform the fee structure for enforcement agents in the UK. [36505]

Mr Djanogly: The Government have given a commitment to provide more protection against aggressive bailiffs. We are preparing a consultation paper focusing on powers of entry, better regulation and costs of enforcement-related services.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of *(a)* 17 November and *(b)* 14 December 2010 regarding a constituent, Mr Allison. [35774]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Kenneth Clarke to John Baron:

The settlement of the Guantanamo civil damages cases and correspondence on the subject is a matter for Cabinet Office. Cabinet Office will therefore respond to these letters.

Offenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on doctor's notes for offenders on community sentences in each of the last three years. [36207]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

It is not clear what is meant by the term 'doctor's notes'. If the question refers to sickness certificates then this information is not collected centrally. Also, the general practitioner would not necessarily know that their patient was an offender on community service.

Prison Accommodation

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his Department's policy on target searching within the prison estate *(a)* is and *(b)* was in May 2010; [36253]

(2) how many target searches there were on the prison estate in *(a)* November 2009 and *(b)* November 2010. [36254]

Mr Blunt: Prisons have always been required to examine specific security risks in their establishments and to set out a local strategy for dealing with those risks. Intelligence-led, targeted searches of specific prisoners or prison areas is one important and productive aspect of this strategy that has always been encouraged in prisons.

Since May 2010 the National Offender Management Service has removed the requirement for prisons outside of the High Security Estate to conduct routine searches in certain areas of the prison. By doing this, in appropriate circumstances, prisons are able to set more effective local searching strategies by moving away from routine searching, which can be predictable and unproductive, and instead concentrate resources on more targeted searches driven by intelligence or other local need. Prisons are required to carry out a local risk assessment to determine if a programme of routine cell searching is required and if so the extent of this. Local searching strategies are documented by each prison and agreed with the regional manager.

Data on targeted searches are not available centrally and to provide this information would require every establishment in England and Wales to collate this information which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Accommodation: Television

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* average cost per set to the prison service of providing television sets in prison cells in the latest period for which figures are available. [36338]

Mr Blunt: The cost of providing television sets in prison cells is met from the revenue generated by the weekly charge paid by prisoners for the rental of television sets from the prison service. There is therefore no cost to the prison service.

Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there were in each prison in each of the last three years; and how many visitors there were to each prison in that period. [36209]

Mr Blunt: The prison population by establishment as on 30 June of each year from 2008-10 is provided in the following table.

The prison population figures provided in the reply are published by the Ministry of Justice and can be found free of charge at the Department's website via the following:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The number of visitors to each prison establishment is not recorded or centrally collated. Information is held at individual prisons in varying formats and the total number could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison population, England and Wales, as at 30 June, by establishment and year

Establishments	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Acklington	909	940	930
Albany[1]	558	554	n/a
Altcourse	1,265	1,314	1,261
Ashfield	397	338	275
Ashwell	546	200	214
Askham Grange	104	122	121
Aylesbury	437	433	433
Bedford	500	461	487
Belmarsh	914	897	833
Birmingham	1,439	1,444	1,475
Blantyre House	118	118	121
Blundeston	526	514	522
Brinsford	525	521	565
Bristol	612	607	607
Brixton	798	792	751
Bronzefield	457	439	479
Buckley Hall	379	377	380
Bullingdon	996	1,081	1,097
Bullwood Hall	213	229	224
Bure[2]	n/a	n/a	520
Camp Hill[1]	589	566	n/a
Canterbury	302	295	295
Cardiff	755	819	794
Castington	398	371	~~191~~
Channings Wood	726	722	709
Chelmsford	695	692	656
Coldingley	385	506	505
Cookham Wood	34	86	112
Dartmoor	646	620	585
Deerbolt	443	431	478
Doncaster	1,141	1,103	1,071
Dorchester	228	226	220
Dovegate	840	848	1,127
Dover	304	310	311
Downview	353	340	326
Drake Hall	262	261	302
Durham	925	958	916
East Sutton Park	89	88	82
Eastwood Park	316	317	318
Edmunds Hill	365	369	376
Elmley[3]	991	954	n/a
Erlestoke	465	468	464
Everthorpe	678	674	664
Exeter	507	531	530
Featherstone	684	682	643
Feltham	629	680	664
Ford	532	529	539
Forest Bank	1,152	1,144	1,344
Foston Hall	259	217	245
Frankland	729	734	821
Full Sutton	580	577	589
Garth	807	817	835

Prison population, England and Wales, as at 30 June, by establishment and year

Establishments	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Gartree	576	678	671
Glen Parva	811	793	720
Gloucester	298	287	289
Grendon (Spring Hill)	504	516	550
Guys Marsh	575	575	552
Haslar	144	151	116
Haverigg	634	629	625
Hewell[4]	1,421	1,344	1,374
High Down	1,109	1,073	1,047
Highpoint	807	930	939
Hindley	494	289	331
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	337	334	354
Holme House	979	948	1,046
Holloway	490	428	416
Hull	1,036	1,018	1,000
Huntercombe	347	260	65
Isle of Wight[1]	n/a	n/a	1,640
Kennet	336	336	341
Kingston (Portsmouth)	198	175	198
Kirkham	589	568	589
Kirklevington Grange	279	270	271
Lancaster Castle	234	228	237
Lancaster Farms	521	493	502
Latchmere House	204	193	191
Leeds	984	1,157	1,114
Leicester	363	357	345
Lewes	682	664	469
Leyhill	497	492	520
Lincoln	706	670	573
Lindholme	1,069	1,114	1,102
Littlehey	717	711	1,031
Liverpool	1,371	1,337	1,245
Long Lartin	438	537	612
Lowdham Grange	679	685	880
Low Newton	297	311	243
Maidstone	479	590	586
Manchester	1,196	1,226	1,206
Moorland	1,018	1,012	1,018
Morton Hall	370	328	284
New Hall	427	370	375
North Sea Camp	312	303	309
Northallerton	241	232	230
Norwich	542	502	749
Nottingham	550	545	898
Onley	638	692	692
Parc	1,179	1,175	1,085
Parkhurst[1]	494	491	n/a
Pentonville	1,148	1,105	1,198
Peterborough	994	950	948
Portland	614	553	468
Preston	727	746	753
Ranby	1,072	1,054	1,062
Reading	240	242	257
Risley	1,077	1,080	1,085
Rochester	388	647	723
Rye Hill	635	654	611
Send	275	278	273
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)[3]	n/a	n/a	1,134
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)[3]	n/a	n/a	444
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)[3]	n/a	n/a	1,105
Shepton Mallet	185	188	189
Shrewsbury	323	290	313
Stafford	679	735	730
Standford Hill[3]	442	450	n/a
Stocken	796	807	833
Stoke Heath	619	580	595
Styal	440	450	441
Sudbury	563	570	578
Swaleside[3]	767	826	n/a
Swansea	423	398	421
Swinfen Hall	614	616	611
The Mount	763	763	769
The Verne	591	589	579
The Wolds	371	388	380
Thorn Cross	233	301	288
Usk (Prescoed)	416	426	423
Wakefield	735	735	733
Wandsworth	1,645	1,675	1,569
Warren Hill	214	188	180
Wayland	966	1,000	1,001
Wealstun	524	517	613
Wellingborough	641	628	540
Wellington	137	130	126
Wetherby	310	360	318
Wharton	820	840	794
Whitemoor	414	444	449
Winchester	554	689	680
Woodhill	822	809	757
Wormwood scrubs	1,270	1,293	1,273
Wymott	1,073	1,127	1,141
Total	83,194	83,454	85,022
Police cells	n/a	n/a	n/a
Establishment and police cell total	83,194	83,454	85,022

n/a = Not applicable.

[1] HMP Albany is now part of the organisational amalgamation of the former HMPs Camp Hill and Parkhurst. They now form HMP The Isle of Wight from 1 April 2009.

[2] HMP Bure opened in November 2009.

[3] HMP Elmley forms part of The Sheppey Cluster, an amalgamation of HMP Standford Hill and HMP Swaleside.

[4] HMP Hewell was created by an amalgamation of the three former prisons, Brockhill and Hewell Grange on 25 June 2008.

Prisons: Drugs

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which Prison Service region the most *(a)* class A and *(b)* class B drugs were detected in prisons in 2009-10. [36272]

Mr Blunt: The best measure of drug misuse in prisons is the random mandatory drug testing (rMDT) programme, which detects drug misuse among prisoners. The following table gives the class A and B results from the rMDT programme in 2009-10, broken down by prison region and type of drug identified.

Random mandatory drug testing: 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

		Number of tests positive by class A and B drug groups						
Region	*Number of tests conducted*	*Cannabis*	*Opiates*[1]	*Cocaine*	*Methadone*	*Amphetamines*	*Barbiturates*	*LSD*
East Midlands	7,075	170	166	5	11	0	0	0
Eastern	5,687	126	149	5	16	0	2	0
High Security	3,612	57	116	2	3	0	0	0
London	3,912	287	132	6	24	1	2	0
North East	3,117	94	65	10	23	2	0	0
North West	7,844	292	256	9	12	0	0	0
South East	9,629	279	262	10	21	6	2	0
South West	4,766	133	148	4	28	0	0	0
Wales	1,904	69	52	2	1	2	0	0
West Midlands	5,442	116	130	2	25	0	2	0
Yorkshire and Humber	5,441	131	142	4	23	0	0	0
Total	58,429	1,754	1,618	59	187	11	8	0

[1] Includes some positives for dihydrocodiene and codeine which, for these purposes, are exempt from the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Prisons also record the number of seizures of drugs. The following table gives the number and type of class A and B seizures in 2009-10, broken down by region. Many seizures are similar in appearance and where not attributable are not categorically identified by scientific analysis. These data differ slightly to those recently provided for a similar question answered on 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 44W. The difference is attributable to the live nature of the data systems interrogated to obtain the data, and the complexity of that interrogation.

Class A and B drug finds in prisons in England and Wales: 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

		Finds by drug group					
Region	*Total number of finds*	*Amphetamines*	*Barbiturates*	*Cannabis*	*Cocaine*	*Heroin*	*LSD*
East Midlands	239	5	0	158	7	68	1
Eastern	205	1	1	133	7	62	1
High Security Estate	59	8	0	22	7	21	1
London	142	0	0	106	10	26	0
North East	169	27	3	87	27	24	1
North West	694	11	1	444	62	176	0
South East	233	7	0	162	6	58	0
South West	206	6	1	90	9	99	1
Wales	83	6	0	45	2	30	0
West Midlands	129	2	0	68	5	54	0
Yorkshire and Humber	169	15	0	109	4	41	0
Total	2,328	88	6	1,424	146	659	5

The prisoner population, number and type of prisons vary in each prison region and so regional figures are not directly comparable.

All figures in this answer have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisons: Visits

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons in England and Wales were found to be in possession of mobile telephones in areas where visitors are not permitted to carry such telephones in 2009-10. [36273]

Mr Blunt: In order to provide the information requested, we would need to contact all Prison Service establishments, ask them to check their local records and to submit this information to headquarters. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Tribunals: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 822W, on tribunals: Colchester, how many tribunals were held in Colchester under the chairmanship of Mrs M.A. Hampshire in the last 12 months; and how many appeals were *(a)* upheld and *(b)* dismissed under her chairmanship. [36134]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to provide the hon. Member with the information sought because it is derived from court records and its disclosure could prejudice the administration of justice.

EDUCATION

Children's Workforce Development Council

Margot James: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the Children's Workforce Development Council. [30938]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education will cease to fund work force development activity through the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC), and will bring its ongoing core activities into the Department. The transfer of work is expected to be completed within the next 18 months, when CWDC's status as a non-departmental public body will cease. CWDC as a company and employer-led body will be free to seek alternative funding.

Departmental Redundancy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the redundancy bill for his Department in each of the next five financial years. [35378]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* As the Department is still in the process of working through the details on the level of work force needed to deliver the coalition Government's education agenda in future years, the likely costs attached to the early release of staff has yet to be finalised.

Discretionary Learner Support Fund: Poplar

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on young people in Poplar and Limehouse constituency of his proposed replacement scheme for education maintenance allowance. [31852]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* We are committed to making sure that young people from low income households can continue in education and training post-16. We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to continue in education.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mrs Glindon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate his Department has made of the effects on the level of *(a)* attendance and *(b)* attainment of students of receiving education maintenance allowance. [32000]

Mr Gibb: We have looked at the extensive evaluation evidence relating to the education maintenance allowance (EMA) pilots, which indicated that the scheme would increase participation of 16-year-olds by 3.8 percentage points and of 17-year-olds by 4.1 percentage points nationally. The pilot evaluation also indicated an increase in overall attainment at level 2 and level 3 by around 2.5 percentage points for females and 2 percentage points for males.

While these outcomes are very welcome, other research commissioned by the previous Administration suggest that around 90% of the young people who receive EMA would still have participated in education if the scheme was not available.

We are committed to making sure that young people from low income households can continue in education and training post-16. We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to continue in education.

IGCSE

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to remove the distinction in nomenclature between *(a)* the IGCSE and *(b)* the Certificate Level 1/2. [29342]

Mr Gibb: The rules pertaining to the naming of qualifications are a matter for Ofqual, the independent exams regulator. Dennis Opposs, Director of Standards at Ofqual, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Dennis Opposs, dated 22 December 2010:

Further to your Parliamentary Question seeking the removal of the distinction between the IGCSE and the Level 1/2 Certificate I am writing to clarify the position of Ofqual on this issue. Our position is essentially based on clarity and expectations.

Under the 'Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act (2009)' Ofqual will accredit qualifications that meet the relevant published criteria. There are currently no criteria for qualifications titled 'IGCSE'. Use of this title could create unfounded expectations amongst users (learners, employers, schools and colleges) of the consistency with GCSE requirements. For example, users might expect that a qualification in French would include all four of the skill areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing. This inclusion is a requirement at GCSE but not a feature of all IGCSE qualifications. Such differences may be confusing to users. On this basis, Ofqual and the regulators for Wales and Northern Ireland have decided that the title 'IGCSE' will not be accepted for accreditation purposes at this time.

I can confirm that the awarding organisation Cambridge International Examinations has a number of qualifications accredited by the regulators as Level 1/2 Certificates and markets them under the title 'IGCSE'. Some of these qualifications are approved for use in maintained schools and colleges in England through inclusion in the Section 96 list maintained by the Department for Education. Likewise the awarding organisation Edexcel has submitted to us for accreditation some Level 1/2 Certificates derived from their unregulated 'IGCSE' qualifications offered in other countries.

Level 1/2 Certificates may not cover the requirements of the Programmes of Study in subjects where they exist but in carrying out the accreditation review of these qualifications we focus on the need for equivalence in demand of the teaching, learning and assessment requirements in comparison to the national GCSE qualification suite.

I trust that this clarifies the current situation and the stance taken by Ofqual to ensure clarity for users and consistency of demand across qualifications. Should you require any further information about this or the workings of Ofqual, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether compliance with the recommendations on financial education as part of Personal, Social and Health Education for Key Stages 1 to 4 is mandatory for schools. [34144]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* We want all schools to provide high-quality financial management education as part of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education. The key processes on financial capability as set out in the PSHE economic well-being and financial capability programmes of study at key stages 3 and 4 are non-statutory.

Schools: Absenteeism

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) if he will take steps to discourage extended unauthorised absences from school; [31679]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the extension of family leave on school attainment figures; and whether his Department takes into account family leave absences when assessing school performance; [31680]

(3) what analysis he has made of the effect on the level of unauthorised absence from schools of the extension of family leave from 14 to 21 days. [31681]

Mr Gibb: Good discipline and regular attendance at school is essential to ensure that all pupils can benefit from the opportunities provided by education. It is this Government's intention to restore the authority of teachers and head teachers so they can establish a culture of excellence in their school. School should be a place where there is good behaviour in the classroom, where pupils feel safe, give respect and are respected in turn, and want to come to school to learn.

There has been no change to the regulations that govern the amount of family leave that can be granted. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 state that a pupil may be granted leave of absence from school to enable them to go away on holiday but that, save for exceptional circumstances, they should not be granted more than 10 school days leave of absence in any school year.

Head teachers and local councils already have powers to issue penalty notices (fines of £50 to £100) to parents who fail to ensure their children's regular school attendance, which includes taking them on holiday during term time without the school's permission. Alternatively, local councils can prosecute parents under section 444 of the Education Act 1996. If parents are found guilty of the offence the Act provides for heavier sanctions where the parent condoned their children's absence from school, as in the case of taking them out of school on an extended family holiday without permission. The court can fine parents up to £2,500 and or give a prison sentence of up to three months. The parent will also get a criminal record. Prosecutions should be used as a last resort by local councils as in most cases a penalty notice will be a sufficient sanction to deter parents.

The Department publishes absence and attainment data for schools as part of the annual Schools Performance Tables. The recently published Primary School (Key Stage 2) Performance Tables included schools overall absence, persistent absence and unauthorised absence data. The Secondary Schools (Key Stage 4) Performance Tables are due for publication in January 2011.

Ofsted, as part of their inspection criteria, will also look at trends in a school's absence data when considering school inspections.

Schools: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many school sports hall facilities were *(a)* built and *(b)* refurbished in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Dudley borough in each of the last 10 years. [32099]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Department does not hold information on the number of school sports hall facilities built or refurbished over each of the past 10 years.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures she has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in departmental communications. [35791]

Richard Benyon: As a Department that deals with technical and scientific issues, some use of acronyms and abbreviations is inevitable. Nevertheless, DEFRA is committed to the use of clear English in all its external and internal communications. There are pages dedicated to the use of clear English on the DEFRA intranet which all staff are encouraged to read.

DEFRA staff who specialise in external communications receive additional guidance or training on the importance of clear English.

Fishing Catches: North Sea

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the tonnage of fish discarded in respect of each of the five most common fish species discarded by trawlers operating in the North Sea registered *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in other EU member states; and if she will make a statement. [36226]

Richard Benyon: The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) of the European Commission compiles data on landings and discards of the main commercial species by fishing gear type. The following estimates of landings and discards by trawlers are based on the STECF data. The estimates cover the three most recent years for which data have been published. Estimates for the two main types of trawl gear (demersal trawls and beam trawls) are given separately.

Cod

		Beam trawl		*Demersal trawl*	
		UK	*Other member states*	*UK*	*Other member states*
2006	Landings (t)	260	2,999	7,556	6,852
	Discards (t)	30	729	2,265	7,514
2007	Landings (t)	180	2,593	7,424	6,349
	Discards (t)	9	210	6,785	13,586

Cod

		Beam trawl		*Demersal trawl*	
		UK	*Other member states*	*UK*	*Other member states*
2008	Landings (t)	104	2,852	7,896	6,421
	Discards (t)	35	1,115	12,454	7,857

Haddock

		Beam trawl		*Demersal trawl*	
		UK	*Other member states*	*UK*	*Other member states*
2006	Landings (t)	5	92	32,014	3,355
	Discards (t)	0	5	14,425	2,408
2007	Landings (t)	5	128	26,137	3,453
	Discards (t)	0	2	25,819	4,726
2008	Landings (t)	1	73	26,823	2,797
	Discards (t)	0	9	11,897	1,876

Plaice

		Beam trawl		*Demersal trawl*	
		UK	*Other member states*	*UK*	*Other member states*
2006	Landings (t)	9,800	33,752	2,722	13,615
	Discards (t)	2,788	25,800	1,616	10,982
2007	Landings (t)	9,085	30,986	2,547	11,505
	Discards (t)	4,280	20,863	920	4,165
2008	Landings (t)	6,943	27,700	4,618	14,647
	Discards (t)	3,301	19,853	1,433	4,538

Saithe

		Beam trawl		*Demersal trawl*	
		UK	*Other member states*	*UK*	*Other member states*
2006	Landings (t)	0	12	9,193	38,119
	Discards (t)	0	0	2,928	9,676
2007	Landings (t)	1	10	9,406	32,699
	Discards (t)	0	0	8,639	24,051
2008	Landings (t)	0	4	11,802	38,276
	Discards (t)	0	2	3,856	20,207

Whiting

		Beam trawl		*Demersal trawl*	
		UK	*Other member states*	*UK*	*Other member states*
2006	Landings (t)	58	162	10,773	5,791
	Discards (t)	40	160	5,971	10,234
2007	Landings (t)	25	112	11,230	5,956
	Discards (t)	86	450	3,893	5,387
2008	Landings (t)	8	144	10,071	5,651
	Discards (t)	25	701	5,879	7,538

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps she is taking to reduce the number of non-target fish species discarded in the North Sea by trawlers registered in the UK and other EU member states; and if she will make a statement; [36120]

(2) whether she is considering any proposals to allow the landing of by-catch that would otherwise be discarded; and if she will make a statement. [36225]

Richard Benyon: Discards are a clear waste of natural resources. To minimise discards by all types of vessels throughout UK seas we are working at a European level to radically reform the common fisheries policy (CFP). However the UK is not awaiting the results of this reform to take action. There have been a number of initiatives aimed at reducing discards, including trialling an alternative "catch quota" management system which is based on managing and monitoring what is caught—not just what is landed. This trial had positive results; reducing discards, increasing selectivity and allowing fishermen to land more and will provide useful evidence for the reform of the CFP.

While landing by-catch that would otherwise be discarded would reduce the problem of discards it would not avoid by-catch in the first instance. Our preference has always been to make fishing more selective, thus tackling the root of this wasteful practice and reducing mortality of non-target fish. Project 50%, a collaborative project between fishermen in the south-west and Government, has led to improved selectivity of fishing gear and less by-catch.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the *(a)* economic and *(b)* environmental effects on (i) the fishing fleet in the North East and (ii) the North Sea of the practice of discarding fish in the North Sea; and if she will make a statement. [36258]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The total discard estimate in 2009 (the latest period for which figures are available for those fisheries sampled in UK) is 51,179 tonnes. There are many reasons explaining these discards; however, the current system for recording catch and discard data does not allow us to differentiate (year on year) why each fish is discarded. Despite this, CEFAS analysis, conducted in 2010 on the 2008 English and Welsh discard data, estimated that:

54% (13,230 tonnes) of total discards were discarded for reasons relating to weak/absent markets (i.e. non-quota species).

Quota constraints were estimated to account for 22% (5,390 tonnes) of discards (i.e. quota species above the legal minimum landing size).

24% (5,880 tonnes) of total discards were quota species below the legal minimum landing size (MLS) and were too small to land.

High grading is another type of discarding where fishermen try to optimise the value of their catches by keeping the good value fish and discarding the poorer value ones. This creates a financial profit for fishermen but is still a waste of fish. A European high grading ban is in place in waters around the UK to prevent this behaviour. Other types of discarding, such as unmarketable species, over quota and under MLS may represent a loss of value to the fishermen and from the fishery.

Estimates of the financial impacts of discards for the British fleet in specific areas are unreliable. To simply use the average market value of all fish species as a multiplier would give an inaccurate estimate of the financial impact of discards. We do, however, have a more robust study under way looking at the economic impact of discarding fish.

(b) The environmental impacts on the ecosystem of discarding fish include the direct effects of discard mortality on fish stocks and the effects of population growth in species that utilise these discards.

The direct ecological effects of fish mortality through being caught and discarded are inextricably linked to overall fishing mortality. In the North sea, excessive fishing mortality has been shown to:

Reduce potential yield from the stocks;

Reduce species diversity;

Change predator-prey interactions; and

Change the relative abundance of species.

A wide range of scavengers, including seabirds and fishes, are known to feed on discards. In the North sea, discarding is estimated to account for up to 10% of the overall annual food consumption of scavengers. This level of contribution is probably sufficient to allow larger populations of these scavenging species to exist than would otherwise be possible. For instance, seabirds are estimated to consume 50% of discarded material; enough potentially to support over 6 million birds.

Several seabed dwelling species also utilise discards but evidence for expansion of these populations, as a response to discards, is weak. In general, the full impacts of discarding on marine communities are not well understood, and neither are the consequences of reducing the amount of discarded material. However, it is recognised that removing non-marketable marine organisms from the ecosystem will reduce its health, and is therefore not consistent with good ecosystem management.

Fishing Catches: South East England

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of fish caught off the *(a)* Sussex and *(b)* South East coast was discarded under the provisions of the EU Common Fisheries Policy in the latest period for which figures are available. [36072]

Richard Benyon: During 2010, CEFAS scientists joined 12 commercial fishing trips sailing from ports on the south-east coast between Lymington and Ramsgate in order to estimate the quantities of fish discarded during these trips. Eight of these trips were aboard vessels based in the Sussex ports of Rye and Shoreham. Overall, 67% by number of the fish caught were discarded, with the corresponding figure from the Sussex trips being 63%. During these trips, 62 different species of fish were caught.

Many of these were discarded because there is no market for the species. Only four of the 62 species caught (cod, plaice, Dover sole and whiting) were subject to legal minimum landing sizes and quota restrictions. Discards of these species involved individuals both below and above the minimum landing sizes.

Forests: Crown Lands and Estates

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what land in each constituency the Crown Estate has transferred to the Forestry Commission in each of the last 30 years. [36377]

Mr Paice: In the last 30 years no land in England has been transferred to the Forestry Commission from the Crown Estates.

Natural Gas: Drinking Water

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent of risk to drinking water supplies posed by shale gas drilling. [36476]

Richard Benyon: The drinking water regulations were changed at the end of 2007 to require water companies to risk assess every drinking water supply and monitor each raw water source on a continual basis. Companies have a duty to take steps to mitigate any potential risks to human health and must notify the Drinking Water Inspectorate of such circumstances. The Chief Inspector of Drinking Water can by notice require further mitigation steps to be taken, or, exceptionally, require that a supply is shut down.

No risk to human health has been identified by the water company responsible for the one drinking water supply, out of a total of 857 in England and Wales, where shale gas drilling is a feature of the water catchment. Water companies are kept informed by the Environment Agency of changes in activities within drinking water catchments, including shale gas drilling.

Rats

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made an assessment of the relationship between the size and growth of the rat population in an area and the frequency of rubbish collections; and if she will make a statement. [36417]

Richard Benyon: There is no evidence of additional vermin problems associated with well designed alternate weekly collection services.

Recycling

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the relative merits of *(a)* deposit refund schemes and *(b)* doorstep recycling schemes in increasing recycling rates of beverage containers. [36241]

Richard Benyon: The relative merits of both methods are being considered as part of the review of waste policy, in the context of increasing the recycling rates of all packaging, not just beverage containers.

Retail Trade: Packaging

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with businesses on the reduction of the amount of packaging used to distribute and retail goods. [35846]

Richard Benyon: As part of the review of waste policy, DEFRA has met with a number of retailers and manufacturers recently to discuss a broad range of waste issues, including the issue of excess packaging.

Rodents: North East England

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the size of the rat population in *(a)* Hartlepool and *(b)* the North East of England; and what assessment she has made of recent rat population trends. [36416]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold data on the size of the UK rat population or on the rat population in UK regions and towns.

Data on rodent presence in domestic dwellings are obtained from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). The EHCS data only provide estimates of the proportions of dwellings with rats present inside or outside. It does not provide definitive data on numbers of rats.

In May 2010, DEFRA published an interim analysis of rodent presence in domestic properties from the EHCS data for 2005, 2006 and 2007. This reported that the occurrences of rats inside and outside in these years were not significantly different from those observed in 2003.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Correspondence

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many items of correspondence were referred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission by each hon. Member in 2009-10, listed in descending order of magnitude. [35212]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

> In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.
>
> You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many items of correspondence were referred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission by each hon. Member in 2009-10, listed in descending order of magnitude. [35212]
>
> Correspondence figures broken down by parliamentary constituency are only available at disproportionate costs. However, the total received in 2009/10 was 16,530.
>
> I am sorry I am unable to be more helpful.

Child Support Agency

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what timetable he has set for the publication of the client fund accounts of the Child Support Agency. [36406]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what timetable he has set for the publication of the client fund accounts of the Child Support Agency. [36406]

Following the transfer of the Child Support Agency's functions to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Commission undertook an extensive programme of work around client funds to enable the publication of the accounts for 2008/09 and 2009/10. The Commission is confident that this work provides a more accurate picture of maintenance arrears and a more robust view of the arrears that are likely to be collected. While this work has taken longer than expected, the Commission is now working with the National Audit Office to finalise both accounts, and aims to publish them before the end of the financial year.

Disability Living Allowance: Mental Illness

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* in Leeds and *(b)* nationally applied for disability living allowance citing schizophrenia or a psychosis as their disability in each of the last five years; and how many such applications were refused in each such year. [34506]

Maria Miller: We are unable to say how many people *(a)* in Leeds and *(b)* nationally applied for disability living allowance citing schizophrenia or a psychosis as their disability in each of the last five years; and how many such applications were refused in each such year. This because our management information systems do not provide us with our customer's main disabling condition when they apply for disability living allowance or when they have their application refused.

Housing Benefit

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made on updating the regulations in respect of exempt accommodation for housing benefit; and what timescale he has set for the completion of this work. [36438]

Steve Webb: We are undertaking an extensive review of this policy which has involved commissioning independent research and discussions with stakeholders. We set up a working group which included local authorities, housing providers, welfare groups, the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government to inform the review. The research was published in December[1], and we hope to publish a consultation document on the principles of our proposed way forward in February.

This is an important but complicated area, and we are aware that the current arrangements can be improved to better reflect the financial needs of customers, local authorities and housing providers. We are aiming to make change from April 2012, and we will seek a solution which balances the needs of all these groups.

[1] 'Exempt' and supported accommodation:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep714.pdf

Housing Benefit: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount of housing benefit paid by tenure in East Lothian constituency was in the latest period for which figures are available; what the average amount of local housing allowance paid by tenure in East Lothian constituency was in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance recipients in (i) local authority, (ii) housing association and (iii) private sector housing in East Lothian constituency were also in receipt of (A) jobseeker's allowance and (B) employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [35865]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

Mortgage Interest Scheme

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress his Department has made in negotiations with mortgage lenders on averaging out mortgage rates under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme. [35838]

Steve Webb: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given my hon. Friend the Member for Torbay (Mr Sanders) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 519W.

Personal Income: East Lothian

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the medium household income was of a family in *(a)* social rented sector, *(b)* private rented sector and *(c)* owner-occupied accommodation in East Lothian constituency (i) before and (ii) after housing costs in the latest period for which figures are available. [35866]

Steve Webb: We use Households Below Average Income data to provide estimates of median incomes. However, the sample size of this survey is not sufficient to provide estimates for low-level geographies such as those requested.

The following table shows the median equivalised disposable household income by tenure for Scotland, before and after housing costs.

Table 1: Median equivalised disposable household income, for families, by tenure for Scotland, three year average 2006-07 to 2008-09, before and after housing costs

	Median equivalised weekly disposable household income for families	
Tenure type	Before housing costs	After housing costs
Owners	467	424
Social Renters	291	235

Table 1: Median equivalised disposable household income, for families, by tenure for Scotland, three year average 2006-07 to 2008-09, before and after housing costs

	Median equivalised weekly disposable household income for families	
Tenure type	*Before housing costs*	*After housing costs*
Private Renters	346	253

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for HBAI figures is single financial years. For countries and regions within the UK, three survey years have been combined as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. Weekly incomes are presented in 2008-09 prices and have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
5. Families are defined as a single adult or couple living as married and any dependent children, including same sex couples (civil partnerships and cohabitees) from January 2006. A household is made up of one or more families and is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal a day together or share the living accommodation (i.e. a living room). In line with the wording of the question, analysis has been carried out at the family level.

Source:

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) 2006-07 to 2008-09

Pregnant Women: Grants

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Sure Start maternity grants were made to mothers for their second or subsequent child in West Lancashire constituency in 2009-10. [5632]

Steve Webb: I apologise for the delay in replying which is due to an administrative error.

A total of 274,000 Sure Start maternity grants were awarded in Great Britain in 2009-10. The exact number of awards for a second or subsequent maternity is not available, but is estimated to be 52% of all awards, around 143,000.

The number of awards made in 2009-10 is available by Government office region or Jobcentre Plus social fund budget area only, not by constituency.

Note:

Both numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 936-37W, how many of the calls received by the National Benefit Fraud Hotline in each of the last five years were examined by the Department and passed to *(a)* the Fraud Investigation Service or *(b)* the customer compliance teams in Jobcentre Plus (i) within 0 to 4 weeks, (ii) within one to two months, (iii) within two to four months, (iv) within four to six months, (v) within six to eight months, (vi) within eight to 10 months, (vii) within 10 to 12 months, (viii) after more than a year, (ix) after more than 15 months and (x) after more than two years. [36630]

Chris Grayling: Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is examined by the Department. The information received is entered immediately on to the IT system and then automatically submitted to either the Fraud Investigation Service or Customer Compliance.

Referrals initially sent for investigation by the Fraud Investigation Service might subsequently be referred to Customer Compliance for continued action at any time if it is clear that a criminal sanction would not be appropriate.

Social Security Benefits: Teenage Pregnancy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid in benefits to pregnant teenagers in the latest period for which figures are available. [36206]

Maria Miller: In 2009-10, the Department paid £26 million in benefits to pregnant teenagers on income support. This is an estimate based on a sample of the Department's administrative records, and relates to Great Britain.

Similar expenditure statistics for other benefits are not available.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Gordon Birtwistle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will commission research into a system for linking increases in pensions for those aged over 80 years to the rate of inflation; [36159]

(2) if he will assess the merits of changing the level of increase to pensions for those aged over 80 years to create an even rate of pension increase from retirement. [36160]

Steve Webb: We have no plans to commission such research. However, the 25p weekly age addition payable with the state pension for those who have reached 80 needs to be considered alongside the range of other measures and benefits that are available to pensioners.

These include the free television licence scheme for those over 75. The age-related personal income tax allowance for the over 75s is higher than the standard rate. For the tax year starting on 6 April 2011, pensioners aged 75 or over will not pay tax on incomes under £10,000. The standard winter fuel payment for households with someone aged 80 or over is £300 and £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79.

We have met our commitment to restore the earnings link for the basic state pension from April 2011 by introducing the necessary legislation. We have also given a "triple guarantee" that the basic state pension is increased by the highest of the average growth in earnings, price increases or 2.5%.

Universal Credit

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how housing costs will be assessed when determining eligibility for universal credit. [36656]

Steve Webb: While we are still developing our plans, our aim is to simplify the provision of housing support in universal credit as much as possible.

As announced in the Budget last year, we will set the amount we pay to support private-rented sector tenants at a level that will generally make the lowest third of market rents affordable. For social-rented sector tenants, we will build on the support provided by the current housing benefit system. We are currently considering whether changes are needed to the existing approach in calculating help with mortgage costs.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34824]

Robert Neill: The Department does not hold this information.

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of his Department who have been appointed since 10 May 2010 have annual salaries greater than *(a)* £100,000, *(b)* £134,565 and *(c)* £142,500. [34884]

Robert Neill: The Department has appointed one employee since 10 May 2010 with an annual salary greater than £100,000, that is, the Permanent Secretary, whose salary is greater than £142,500.

Since May we have also published salary details for all existing staff at director level and above.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on the Government Car Service since May 2010. [34525]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show that £307,080 has been spent with the Government Car and Despatch Agency since May 2010.

This amount includes expenditure for some services provided before the election.

In the previous two financial years the Department spent the following:

	£
2009-10	673,636
2008-09	737,821

Departmental Recruitment

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on recruitment advertising in each national newspaper in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [33274]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show £7,567 (inc. VAT) as having been spent on recruitment advertising in national newspapers in January 2010 which was related to recruitment for lay members of the Residential Property Tribunal Service.

Expenditure on recruitment advertising in national newspaper by third parties (eg recruitment agencies) could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on redundancy costs since May 2010. [34922]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government has made no redundancies since May 2010.

Housing: Standards

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the merits of encouraging local authorities to carry out housing condition surveys to protect tenants from irresponsible landlords; and if he will make a statement. [36381]

Andrew Stunell: Local authorities have powers, under the Housing Act 2004, to assess the risks and hazards in residential properties using the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. If a property is found to contain serious (category 1) hazards, the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action. This could range from trying to deal with the problems informally at first to prohibiting the use of the whole or part of the dwelling. This system provides an important safety net, ensuring that homes are safe and decent. This Government are satisfied that the current legislation achieves the right balance between the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants and have no plans to introduce further regulation in this area.

It is in a local authority's interest to collect information across all housing tenures through housing condition surveys. The Government do not stipulate the precise detail of local housing condition surveys. It is for local authorities to decide the best approach for their area.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the level of transparency of local authorities in respect of enforcing standards in the private rented housing market; and if he will make a statement. [36382]

Andrew Stunell: As part of the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return local authorities report to my Department the number of private sector (non-registered provider) dwellings with category 1 hazards under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System made free from those hazards as a direct result of local authority action. This information is readily available from the Department for Communities and Local Government website at section B via the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/hssa0910/hssadata200910/

Transparency is an important Government policy, supporting the decentralisation and localism agendas. Information should be made easily accessible to the public.

Landlord and Tenant

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of households which rent their home from a private landlord; and if he will make a statement. [36379]

Andrew Stunell: The most recent estimate, based on data from the English Housing Survey, is that there were 3.1 million households in England renting from private landlords in 2008-09.

Tenure estimates for 2009-10 are due to be published in the English Housing Survey headline report 2009-10 in late February 2011.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what support his Department provides to low-income tenants in disputes with irresponsible landlords; and if he will make a statement. [36380]

Andrew Stunell: The existing legislative framework for private renting provides safeguards to ensure both landlords and tenants take their responsibilities seriously. Where a private tenant has legitimate concerns, they can obtain help and advice from local authorities who also have extensive powers to tackle poor quality stock or poor management standards in the private rented sector. Tenants can also seek advice from a range of free independent advice organisations—most notably the citizen's advice bureaux, many of which receive funding from local authorities. My Department supports these sources of help through the funding it provides to local authorities.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* people on (i) council housing and (ii) housing association waiting lists and *(b)* new homes to be built in the next four years. [36515]

Andrew Stunell: Information on social housing waiting lists is collected in terms of the number of households (rather than people). The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists in England as at 1 April 2010 was 1.75 million having risen from 1.02 million in 1997. Where local authorities and housing associations operate a common housing register, households registered with the housing association will be included in this figure. However, housing associations are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. No further information on housing association waiting lists is collected centrally.

The Department for Communities and Local Government does not make estimates of the number of new homes that will be built in future years.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to improve the welfare standards of animals used in tests for household cleaning products and their ingredients. [35854]

Lynne Featherstone: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires high standards of welfare for all animals used in regulated procedures for all of the purposes listed in Section 5(3) of the Act, including the testing of any product or ingredient to prevent disease, ill-health or abnormalities in man, animals or plants.

Unless a specific exemption is granted, the animals must be housed and cared for in accordance with the standards which are laid down in the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and two Codes of Practice for the housing and care of animals used in scientific procedures.

As regards, the testing of household products on animals, the coalition Government have pledged to end such testing and we are currently finalising the practical arrangements for its implementation. I expect to announce these arrangements shortly.

Asylum: Children

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 prior to a final determination on a family asylum claim. [36396]

Damian Green: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained by examination of individual case records only at a disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 398-9W, on asylum: housing, what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum number of people seeking asylum was that each local authority or local authority consortium has been required to house under contracts with the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [36276]

Damian Green: The contractual minimum and maximum volumes for each local authority/consortia are shown in the following table. The figures have not changed for the duration of the contracts awarded in 2006.

	Minimum	*Maximum*
Glasgow CC	2,000	2,200
NECCASS	1,250	2,882
Y&H Consortium	3,345	3,885
NW Consortium	500	2,245
Liverpool City Council	185	725
West Midlands Consortium	1,300	1,800
Cardiff City Council	400	1320
Swansea City Council	200	275

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 398-99W, on asylum: housing, what estimate she has made of the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum number of people seeking asylum that each local authority or local authority consortium will be required to house under contracts with the UK Border Agency in each of the next five years. [36277]

Damian Green: New contracts for the provision of accommodation for eligible asylum seekers are due to be awarded in 2012. Invitations to tender for these contracts will be released in spring this year and we are currently formulating a strategy to deliver best value for the tax-payer. It will be open to local authority consortia to submit tenders under this procurement exercise. We cannot provide estimates of projected minimum and maximum numbers of asylum seekers to be housed by local authority under contract as we cannot pre-empt the outcome of the procurement.

Border Agency: Manpower

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on UK Border Agency services of the proposed reduction in its staff numbers by 2015. [36244]

Damian Green: The priority of the agency remains to secure the border and to control migration while we play our part in reducing the public deficit. We are committed to programmes such as e-Borders and the Immigration Case Working system that will help to reduce the threat of terrorism, crime and immigration abuse and replace costly and outmoded paper work, respectively. These programmes will help improve our productivity and efficiency and will mean that we can target our resources on those people likely to cause most harm to the UK. As a result the UK Border Agency will be able to deliver its objectives while reducing the budget by up to 20% in real terms over the next four years.

Border Security Agents: Paris

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many border security agents were stationed in Paris on the most recent date for which figures are available. [36243]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency currently employs 53 officers at Gare du Nord train station in Paris. This information was locally collated in December 2010.

Criminal Records: Vetting

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to complete a Criminal Record Bureau check was in the latest period for which figures are available. [36458]

Lynne Featherstone: In December 2010, the last period for which figures are available, the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) took an average of 24.4 days to complete an enhanced check.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department have been made redundant since May 2010. [36639]

Damian Green: The Home Office has not made any staff redundant since May 2010.

DNA: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what software the Forensic Science Service uses to analyse DNA raw data samples. [36625]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) uses a combination of internally developed software and software provided by Applied Biosystems.

Entry Clearances: Carers

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discretion is available to the UK Border Agency to allow adults with special needs to remain in the UK while an application is made for residence, where the main carer of the applicant is a UK citizen with right of residence. [36378]

Damian Green: All applicants who submit a valid application to the UK Border Agency for permission to remain in the UK before their previous permission expires are permitted to remain in the UK pending the outcome of that application. Where appropriate, a right of appeal will be given if the application is refused. When an application is made after the expiry of an individual's permission to remain in the UK, the application is made out of time and the applicant is an over-stayer. The UK Border Agency will also consider applications from those whose stay here has lapsed but in the event that the application is refused, there will not be a right of appeal and the person will be considered for removal if they fail to leave voluntarily.

Football: Poland and Ukraine

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the threat from far-right activists to British fans attending the European Football Championships in 2012. [35724]

James Brokenshire: Home Office is in close liaison with the authorities in Poland and Ukraine assessing the full range of risks to British fans. No specific assessment has been made of the threat from far-right activists. The safety and security preparations will include a range of assessment to minimise the risk to British fans and police, including any risk from far-right activists.

Forensic Science Service: Criminal Investigation

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has she made of the likely effects of the closure of the Forensic Science Service on police forces' ability to conclude cold case reviews. [36477]

James Brokenshire: As part of the managed wind-down we will ensure steps are taken to safeguard Forensic Science Service (FSS) records so that they can continue to be accessed by police investigating re-opened cases (or cold cases), and to prevent a break in continuity when the company ceases trading.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cold case reviews the Forensic Science Service has ongoing. [36478]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) advises that currently there are approximately 600 cold case reviews in the system. This takes into account new cases for review of forensic potential; those being progressed via new techniques in the laboratory, and those coming to court.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of cold case reviews the Forensic Science Services is likely to have on going at the point at which it is wound down. [36479]

James Brokenshire: It is not possible to provide an accurate projection of how many cold case reviews the Forensic Science Service (FSS) is likely to have on going at the point at which it is wound down. However, as part of the managed wind-down, the Home Office is working with partners across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to agree a suitable process for the handling and retention of FSS records so that historical data remains available to the CJS.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution she has made to the review of Government strategy on human trafficking. [36581]

Damian Green: I am leading the development of the Government's strategy on human trafficking, in close collaboration with my ministerial colleagues, including my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary in her capacity as the Minister for Women and Equalities.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants *(a)* were removed from and *(b)* voluntarily departed the UK between July and September 2010. [36459]

Damian Green: The table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures between July and September 2010.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2], from the United Kingdom, by type, July to September 2010

Number of departures[3]

	Enforced removals and voluntary departures					
	Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[4]	*Assisted voluntary returns[5]*	*Other voluntary departures[6]*	*Total*	*Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[7]*	*Grand total*
July	1,700	430	1,245	3,380	1,555	4,935
August	1,690	430	1,250	3,370	1,600	4,975
September	1,730	390	1,145	3,265	1,520	4,785
July to September	5,125	1,250	3,640	10,015	4,675	14,690

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.

[4] Includes persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.

[5] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

[6] Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[7] Includes removals performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers and cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

Immigration

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to monitor the number of people leaving the UK. [34776]

Damian Green: Our programme for Government sets out our clear commitment to re-introduce exit checks, which we will do by March 2015, and our clear commitment to e-Borders.

Through the e-Borders system, we currently check electronically in excess of 55% of all arrivals into and departures from the UK, enabling the law enforcement agencies to mount an appropriate response, while supporting the UK Border Agency's ability to monitor passenger movement numbers.

We have announced our intention to review by April 2011 the extent to which e-Borders provides a solution to the re-introduction of exit checks.

Immigration Control

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the merits of increasing the fees for the processing of visa applications for economic migrants and visitors to the UK for the purposes of reducing the level of job losses at the UK Border Agency. [36664]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency continues to monitor the visa, immigration and nationality fees paid by migrants and visitors to ensure they make an appropriate contribution to the costs of running the system which the taxpayer continues to support.

Migration Impacts Fund: Scotland

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to the Scottish Government from the migration impact fund in each of the last three years. [36374]

Damian Green: Migration impact funding is allocated to the Scottish Government under the Barnett formula.

The first allocation under the fund to the Scottish Government was £2.973 million in 2009-10 and a further £1.18 million was allocated in 2010-11 making a total of £4.153 million.

The fund was not in existence for the year 2008-09 and has since been terminated.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1214-5W, on immigration, if she will make arrangements for the collection of statistics by the UK Border Agency on the volume of correspondence received from hon. Members. [35210]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency collects statistics on the number of inquiries made by hon. Members and these are published yearly by the Cabinet Office.

In the year 2009 the UK Border Agency received 66,320 inquiries by letter or email, and 25,322 inquiries by telephone, a total of 91,642 inquires from Members of Parliament.

Young Offenders: Arrests

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the juvenile violent crime arrest rate was in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency in each year for which figures are available. [35712]

James Brokenshire: Data on the number of persons aged 10-17 arrested for violent offences per 1,000 population are provided in the table from 2000-01 to 2008-09. Data broken down by *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency are not reported to the Home Office, so data broken down by police force area has been provided in lieu.

The arrests collection began in 1999-2000, however figures have not been provided for that year as reliable breakdowns of the data by age group are not available.

Data on arrests for 2009-10 are due to be published on 15 April 2011.

Number of persons aged 10-17 arrested for 'violent offences'[1] per 1,000 population by police force area, England and Wales 2000-01 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	7	5	7	8	11	13	16	16	15
Bedfordshire	9	7	11	15	20	22	21	17	15
Cambridgeshire	10	6	7	8	12	19	18	16	14
Cheshire	8	6	8	7	12	18	16	12	11
Cleveland	14	12	13	15	n/a	19	18	19	17
Cumbria	10	9	11	11	17	19	18	15	20
Derbyshire	13	8	14	16	21	22	20	22	19
Devon and Cornwall	9	8	11	11	12	13	13	13	9
Dorset	9	10	6	8	12	15	16	15	13
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	18	26	27	27	24
Essex	12	8	9	12	13	15	12	17	15
Gloucestershire	6	6	7	9	10	16	21	19	16
Greater London	17	9	15	17	19	23	28	25	23
Greater Manchester	14	8	14	17	21	26	28	24	21
Hampshire	14	8	13	17	19	19	25	23	19
Hertfordshire	9	6	8	11	16	16	17	15	14
Humberside	11	8	11	12	13	14	15	13	12
Kent	11	6	11	12	13	14	13	13	14

Number of persons aged 10-17 arrested for 'violent offences'[1] per 1,000 population by police force area, England and Wales 2000-01 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Lancashire	19	12	16	24	32	32	31	26	21
Leicestershire	9	7	9	9	10	14	14	13	10
Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	16	12	10
Merseyside	18	11	20	24	21	20	23	24	22
Norfolk	11	9	9	10	12	14	12	9	10
Northamptonshire	9	7	9	10	11	16	17	13	10
Northumbria	18	12	20	23	31	35	42	33	29
North Yorkshire	15	11	17	22	n/a	22	17	19	11
Nottinghamshire	22	13	18	21	22	27	22	21	17
South Yorkshire	15	10	15	16	21	23	23	24	20
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	19	17	19	19	15
Suffolk	9	6	9	12	14	14	17	10	10
Surrey	8	7	10	12	14	15	16	12	8
Sussex	8	6	8	13	17	18	19	17	13
Thames Valley	11	7	12	13	17	18	18	14	14
Warwickshire	7	7	6	8	10	13	16	14	12
West Mercia	10	7	9	12	15	17	19	12	13
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	17	19	17	18	17	15	14
West Yorkshire	15	10	19	20	23	30	32	28	21
Wiltshire	9	7	9	8	7	9	6	7	8
Dyfed-Powys	11	9	11	14	12	15	20	15	15
Gwent	n/a	n/a	10	12	18	20	23	18	9
North Wales	10	7	11	16	19	21	27	28	27
South Wales	13	13	13	14	15	17	21	18	15

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Violent offences are made up from violence against person offences, sexual offences and robbery.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36598]

Gregory Barker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Jeremy Lefroy) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 478.

Since then we have installed additional LED lighting and delivered our lowest ever monthly office emissions in December 2010 thanks in part to an effort to consolidate the use of space over the low-occupancy week between Christmas and new year. Current figures suggest we have already saved in excess of 100 tonnes compared to our target of 132 tonnes.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35399]

Gregory Barker: Information on key public appointments made since May 2010 is published in individual press releases. Press releases are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/news/categories/releases/releases.aspx

In addition, information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually on DECC's website. Information for the 2010-11 period will be published in due course.

Electricity Generation: Wind Power

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for offshore wind generation under *(a)* section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989, *(b)* the Transport and Works Act 1992 and *(c)* the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 were (i) granted and (ii) not granted consent in (A) each year from 2005 to 2010 and (B) 2011 to the latest date for which information is available; and what the reasons for not granting consent were in each case. [36360]

Charles Hendry: Section 36 offshore wind farm applications that were granted consent for the period in question are as follows:

2005: 0
2006: 2
2007: 4
2008: 6
2009: 0
2010: 0
2011 (to date): 0

No applications were refused consent in this period.

No offshore wind farm projects were granted consent and none were refused under the Transport and Works Act 1992 during the period in question.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 does not apply offshore.

Energy: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of social tariffs among low-income households in each of the last four financial years. [35685]

Gregory Barker: Following an announcement in the 2008 Budget the big six energy suppliers voluntarily agreed to increase their collective expenditure on their voluntary social programmes to at least £100 million in 2008-09, £125 million in 2009-10, rising to £150 million by 2011.

Suppliers agreed in 2008 to provide greater visibility of their social tariff offers. Following this Ofgem has worked with the suppliers to ensure that information about their social tariffs and programmes and a contact phone number for consumers to check their eligibility are available on all the suppliers' websites.

Expenditure on suppliers' social assistance as part of the voluntary agreement is monitored by Ofgem and in its latest report it estimated that over 1.6 million customer accounts are benefitting from a supplier's social or discounted tariff, as at the end of March 2010. A copy of Ofgem's report is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring%20Suppliers%20Social%20Spend%202009-10.pdf

The Voluntary Agreement comes to an end in March 2011 and will be replaced by the Warm Home Discount. Over the four years to 2015, suppliers will be required to spend up to £1.1 billion to help fuel-poor and vulnerable consumers under this scheme. It is projected to help around two million households per year.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met representatives of *(a)* Ofgem and *(b)* energy suppliers to discuss consumer energy prices. [36255]

Charles Hendry: DECC Ministers and officials meet with Ofgem and the energy suppliers on a regular basis to discuss market issues.

It is important that consumers have the lowest possible energy bills, consistent with the need to invest to reduce carbon emissions from energy and ensure security of supply.

Ofgem therefore monitors the market closely and reports quarterly on retail prices. Their latest report shows large increases in estimated supplier margins for the year ahead, largely due to recent price increases. We are disappointed on behalf of consumers by this development and welcome the announcement of Ofgem's review of the retail market. Ofgem will report on this review in March of this year. This announcement is available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/PressRel/Documents1/Retail%20Market%2026%20November.pdf

Fuel Oil

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has estimated a date on which global production of crude oil will peak; and if he will make a statement. [36644]

Charles Hendry: We have not estimated a date on which global production of crude oil will peak. However, we do look at a variety of sources that assess oil demand and oil depletion including the IEA, industry and other research organisations. In 2010, DECC's chief scientist sent out a call for evidence on the prospects for future oil supply to a range of experts. A number of responses received argue that a supply 'crunch' (a tightness in the oil market), if not a peak in oil production, is very likely before 2020. We are very grateful for the excellent responses and will use the results to help ensure that our analysis is informed by all relevant factors and further develop energy policies that reduce the risks inherent in a resource constrained future.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he plans to take of the *(a)* availability and *(b)* costs of liquid petroleum gas in his consideration of steps to assist rural areas to respond to the effects of rising oil prices. [36658]

Charles Hendry: Many off-grid energy consumers have been hit hard by high prices and supply issues this winter. I am keen the reasons for this are thoroughly investigated by an independent authority. This is why I asked the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to bring forward its competition and consumer study into off-grid energy, and asked the OFT if the study could explore the longer term consumer issues such as lifetime payback, consumer standards and labelling for alternative energy sources or supplies. Such a study would provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

I very much welcome the OFT's decision to bring forward their work which will look at the effectiveness of the off-grid energy market so we can assess what steps may need to be taken well ahead of next winter.

Radioactive Waste

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on developing a deep earth repository for all radioactive waste; and what the role of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management is in the design and siting of such a facility. [36488]

Charles Hendry: Government are undertaking a staged process for implementing geological disposal of higher activity radioactive waste, as set out in the 2008 White Paper 'Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A framework for Implementing Geological Disposal'. This process is based on voluntarism and partnership with local communities with the first stage being local communities 'expressing an interest' in entering discussions with Government about the geological disposal facility siting process.

To date, three 'expressions of interest' have been received (Copeland borough council, Cumbria county council and Allerdale borough council) for the areas of Copeland and Allerdale. The authorities and local stakeholders are working together in partnership to consider whether to move to the next stage of the process. The option to express an interest remains open and DECC officials are available to answer questions or advise any community who wishes to seek further information.

Government, along with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), are responsible for implementing geological disposal. The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's (CoRWM's) primary task is to provide independent scrutiny and advice on the Government's and NDA's proposals, plans and programmes to deliver geological disposal, together with robust interim storage. Further information on the work of CoRWM is available on their website at:

http://corwm.decc.gov.uk

Warm Front Scheme: Finance

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget for the Warm Front scheme will be in 2011-12. [37028]

Gregory Barker: As part of the spending review 2010, the Government announced that we will continue to fund a smaller targeted Warm Front programme for the next two years, with £110 million available in 2011-12 and £100 million for 2012-13.

Winter Weather Forecasts

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department received on winter weather forecasts from the Met Office between October and December 2010. [36509]

Gregory Barker: The Met Office provided written forecasts to the Cabinet Office towards the end of each month: October, November and December; for the following three months. These were shared with the Department.

The forecast in October for November to January stated that early to mid-winter in northern Europe was likely to be colder and drier than the 1971-2000 average, with an increased risk of a cold and wintry start.

The update issued in November, for December to February, stated that the most likely scenario was for northern Europe to be colder and drier than the 1971-2000 average, with the cold bias likely to be stronger during the first half of the winter.

The update issued in December, for January to March, stated that again the most likely scenario was for northern Europe to be colder and drier than the 1971-2000 average.

TRANSPORT

Coastguard Services

14. **Mr Sanders:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department considered alternative proposals for the modernisation of the structure of coastguard services prior to the publication of its consultation paper. [36307]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has been considering options for the reconfiguration of HM Coastguard Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres for sometime. I should emphasise that it is the Rescue Co-ordination Centres, not the front line rescue services that are being reconfigured.

The consideration has concentrated on development of the most efficient and reliable nationally networked structure. This led to the proposal put to Ministers and subsequently published on 16 December last year. The consultation runs until 24 March 2011. I encourage all those with an interest to contribute.

Rail Franchising

15. **Guto Bebb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for reform of rail franchising; and if he will make a statement. [36308]

Mrs Villiers: On 19 January, the Government set out a new approach to franchising, taking account of the consultation which took place last summer. We expect these reforms to deliver a railway which is more responsive to passenger needs and provides better value for taxpayer investment.

Speed Cameras

16. **Nicky Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to make speed camera data more accessible to the public. [36310]

Mrs Villiers: In December the Minister for Road Safety, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), announced that by April 2011 more data on speed cameras would be made available to the public by local councils and the police.

A working group including representatives from the Home Office, the police and the Highways Agency is considering the best way to deliver this information.

Motoring Costs: Rural Areas

17. **Grahame M. Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of trends in the cost of motoring on people on low incomes living in rural areas. [36311]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have not made any specific assessment of the effect of trends in motoring costs on low income groups in rural areas.

However, independent studies suggest that between 1997 and 2010 motoring costs (including purchase costs) decreased by 7% in real terms.

Crossrail Line

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for operation of the first Crossrail trains; when he expects the whole line service to be operational; and when he plans to publish the tender for the first trains. [35084]

Mrs Villiers: We expect that phased introduction of Crossrail services will commence from 2018. The detailed timetable for the phased introduction of Crossrail services across the whole line will be announced in due course, following the additional work I outlined to the House on 14 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 96-97WS. The invitation to tender for Crossrail rolling stock is planned to be published in late 2011.

Driving Standards Agency: Cardiff

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to publish the *(a)* findings of the review and *(b)* subsequent report prepared in advance of the announcement of the closure of the Driving Standards Agency office in Cardiff. [34975]

Mike Penning: The report, incorporating the findings of the review of the proposal to close the Driving Standards Agency's Cardiff office, was published on the agency's corporate website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/dsa/category.asp?cat=779

on 18 January 2011. A copy of the report has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Large Goods Vehicles: EU Action

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress he has made on discussions with his counterparts on proposed EU restrictions on the height of commercial vehicles. [34829]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 January 2011]:* Department for Transport officials have discussed this issue with the European Commission on several occasions including, most recently, at a meeting on 17 January.

As I stated in my Westminster Hall debate on 18 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 229-35WH, with my hon. Friend the Member for Mid Derbyshire (Pauline Latham), which the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent South also spoke at, the Government position is strongly opposing this measure and we are working with other member states and industry to ensure that the status quo is maintained. The Commission is now reconsidering its draft proposal.

Railways: North West England

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with Network Rail on the planned electrification of rail lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool; and if he will make a statement. [36312]

Mrs Villiers: In November 2010 the Government confirmed their support for the electrification of rail lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool. Network Rail updates the Department every month on the progress of the electrification project where specific programme issues are raised.

Snow and Ice: West Midlands

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of local transport infrastructure in the West Midlands during the recent severe weather. [36297]

Norman Baker: No specific assessment has been made of the adequacy of local transport infrastructure in the west midlands following the recent severe weather. It is for each local highways authority to set its winter service strategy and to ensure resources are in place to deliver that strategy.

WALES

Referendum

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress she has made on arrangements for the referendum on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales; and if she will make a statement. [37067]

Mrs Gillan: I can confirm that this Government have delivered on our commitment to hold a referendum on whether the National Assembly for Wales should have primary legislative powers over those areas that are already devolved, which will take place on 3 March 2011.

The legal instruments setting out the arrangements for the referendum to take place were approved by Her Majesty the Queen in Privy Council on 15 December 2010. The Orders were previously approved by the National Assembly for Wales and both Houses of Parliament. It is now for the people of Wales to have their say in the referendum.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Honours

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many nominations for official honours for persons undertaking activities in areas within his Department's remit his Department examined in each of the last three years; and how many such honours were granted. [36695]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not consider any nominations for official honour for persons undertaking activities outside of its remit.

News Corporation

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what correspondence he has had with Rupert Murdoch on News Corporation's proposed takeover of BSkyB. [35561]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: All relevant correspondence up until 24 January 2011 has been published in the written statement of 25 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 3-4WS. Any correspondence after this date will be published at the time I reach my decision.

Tourism

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to promote tourism in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [36497]

John Penrose: The regional development agencies have had strategic responsibility for tourism in the regions since 2003, including regional tourism investment. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides funding to VisitBritain and VisitEngland. They are responsible for promoting Britain abroad and England in the UK and certain overseas markets. They endeavour to ensure that their campaigns offer a fair spread of coverage to destinations across the country.

However, up to 2007-08, DCMS contributed £3.6 million a year to the eight non-London RDAs, in support of their regional role. This was reduced to £3.5 million and £3.4 million for 2008-09 and 2009-10. This money was not ring-fenced for tourism—along with the contributions from other Government Departments it was absorbed into the total Single Budget, which was then allocated between the RDAs. It has been up to each RDA to decide on how much it wishes to invest in tourism from its overall allocation from the Single Budget.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of the aggregates levy. [34959]

Justine Greening: The Government are fully committed to reinstating the aggregates levy credit scheme in Northern Ireland and have submitted evidence to the European Commission to support a new decision to approve it as a state aid for environmental purposes. The Chancellor will make any other decisions on the aggregates levy at Budget when all taxes can be taken into consideration as part of an overall fiscal judgment.

Banks: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings he has had with representatives of the banking sector in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [36026]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. However, a list of meetings with external stakeholders is published on the Treasury website. This list can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/minister_hospitality.htm

Child Benefit

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effects on income of families with *(a)* one child and *(b)* two or more children in each income decile of his proposed changes to the administration of child benefit (i) in cash terms and (ii) as a proportion of income in each of the four financial years from April 2012. [34803]

Mr Gauke: Child benefit will be withdrawn from families containing a higher rate taxpayer. Affected families are within the top 20% of the income distribution of all families (including those without children). Families with no higher rate taxpayer who receive child benefit, which is around 80% of all families claiming child benefit, will be unaffected by this policy.

At the June Budget and the spending review, this Government have taken the unprecedented step of publishing detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of their decisions for the first time. For instance, charts B.4 and B.5 in Annex B of the "Spending Review 2010" document show the overall impact of spending review and Budget measures by income decile in 2012-13. The impact of the change to child benefit from its introduction in January 2013 to the end of the financial year is therefore captured in the analysis.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36184]

Justine Greening: Between May-December 2010 HM Treasury awarded 10 contracts using single tender action. One of those contracts (Support and Maintenance Services' for the COINS spending data system) exceeded the EU public procurement threshold at a value of £1.4 million (excluding VAT) for the period September 2010-July 2013.

Enterprise Investment Scheme

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to review the rules on the *(a)* connected persons and *(b)* the types of businesses classified as performing a qualifying trade in respect of the Enterprise Investment scheme. [36359]

Mr Gauke: The Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) plays a valuable role in incentivising investment into small companies. As with all areas of tax policy, the Government will keep the EIS under review to ensure that it is effectively meeting its policy objectives.

Equality Impact Assessments

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Department's paper Overview of the Impact of Spending Review 2010 on Equalities, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* questions and *(b)* outcomes data from the screening process referred to in paragraph 1.8. [29198]

Justine Greening: At the spending review, the Treasury conducted a screening exercise to assess whether changes in the areas of tax, welfare and public service pensions would have a particular impact on women or men, people of different ethnic origin or people with disabilities.

The results of these screening exercises can be found in the publication "Overview of the Impact of the Spending Review on Equalities" which was published alongside the spending review announcement. As these documents relate to ongoing policy development, it would not be appropriate to place copies in the Library at this stage.

Full impact assessments will be considered and published by the relevant Departments as the full details of these policies are finalised.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 86W, on the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), which contracts his Department had with the IFS between 2002-03 and 2010-11; what the monetary value was of each such contract; and what tender process was undertaken in each case. [28824]

Justine Greening: The majority of the Department's spending with the Institute for Fiscal Studies was for the Department's membership of the Retirement Savings Consortium, at a cost of £12,500 per annum in 2008-09, when the last payment was made under the contract. The Department's membership of the consortium pre-dates the Department's contract details database and information on any tender process that may have been undertaken is not available.

Public Expenditure

Mr Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which central Government Departments he expects to have an underspend in 2010-11; and by what amount in each case. [33606]

Danny Alexander: In line with usual practice, provisional outturn for departmental expenditure against departmental expenditure limits (DELs) will be reported in forthcoming "Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper (PEOWP)".

Stewardship of the Manor of Northstead

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he appointed the Member elected to represent the Belfast West constituency at the May 2010 general election to be Steward and Bailiff of the Manor of Northstead. [37282]

Mr George Osborne: I have nothing to add to the comments made in the House on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 404-05. My appointment of the former Member to the Stewardship of the Manor of Northstead was consistent with long-standing procedure, as set out in *Erskine May*.

VAT: Third Sector

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average cost of the recent increase in the rate of value added tax to voluntary services and charities in each of the next three years. [33820]

Mr Gauke: Charities benefit from a range of tax reliefs which for 2009-10 the Government estimate are worth approximately £3 billion per annum. These include reliefs from VAT, for example: VAT zero-rating on the sale of donated goods, medical and scientific equipment and, for qualifying charities, goods for use by disabled people. All zero rates are derogations from the normal EU VAT rules, and represent benefits not enjoyed by charities elsewhere in Europe.

Charities carrying out non-taxable activities may incur irrecoverable VAT on their purchases, but information is not available to assess accurately the amount or the effect of the increase in the standard rate of VAT.

SCOTLAND

Blood: Contamination

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on the implementation in Scotland of compensation scheme for those infected by hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products during the 1970s and 1980s. [36496]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State and I are in contact with ministerial colleagues and the Scottish Government on a number of issues. This particular matter has been dealt with by Ministers and officials from the Department of Health and the Scottish Government.

Devolution: Consultants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what payments his Department has made to consultants for work relating to devolution since 1997. [36453]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date, one payment of £6,100 was made in financial year 2002-03 for a report on devolution within Europe.

Students: Visas

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effect on universities in Scotland of changes to student visas. [36489]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I are in regular discussion with ministerial colleagues in the Home Office, including on how changes to the immigration system impact on Scotland.

Fiona O'Donnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will publish each communication he has received on the Home Office consultation by the Home Office on changes to student visas. [36490]

David Mundell: The Government's consultation on student immigration is currently under way and closes on 31 January. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not standard practice to publish communications between Ministers on the development of Government policy.

Taxation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was *(a)* collected in taxation and *(b)* spent on public services in Scotland in each of the last five years. [36004]

David Mundell: The UK Government do not publish figures for total taxes collected in Scotland. However, figures on identifiable public spending in Scotland are published in HM Treasury's Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. The Scottish Government do publish such estimates of tax receipts and total Government expenditure in their annual publication "Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland", available in the House of Commons Library and at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/06/22160331/0

The most recent edition estimates that the net fiscal balance in Scotland was a deficit of £14.7 billion for 2008-09. Once implemented, the financial provisions of the Scotland Bill would result in around 35% of the Scottish Parliament's current budget being derived directly from taxes determined and raised in Scotland, replacing a substantial proportion of the existing block grant from the UK Government.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Operating Costs

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of *(a)* the running costs of the Prime Minister's living accommodation at Downing Street, including (i) utility charges, (ii) council tax, (iii) telephone costs, (iv) cleaning, (v) insurance and (vi) maintenance and *(b)* the cost of any changes made to the living accommodation since the 2010 general election. [33786]

Mr Maude: As has been the practice under successive Administrations the Cabinet Office does not hold a separate estimate for the running costs of the Prime Minister's living accommodation, which form part of the overall Downing street estate.

The Government self-insure their premises, so no premium is payable for insurance.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister pays his own council tax for this accommodation.

Census: Vetting

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether people recruited to work on the 2011 Census campaign will be required to pay for their own criminal record check; [35705]

(2) who he expects to meet the costs of criminal record checks for those recruited to work on the 2011 Census. [35744]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1. Who is expected to meet the costs of criminal records bureau checks for those recruited to work on the 2011 Census (35705)

2. Whether people wishing to work for the 2011 Census campaign will be required to pay for their own Criminal Records Bureau check (35744)

No one employed to work on the 2011 Census is subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks. However, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines all staff are subject to checks for unspent convictions through Disclosure Scotland. Either the Office for National Statistics (ONS) or its contractors meet the costs of checks for unspent convictions. In some instances, applicants are asked to pay the fee required to carry out a check but this fee is subsequently reimbursed by ONS.

Charitable Donations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of long-term trends in altruism in the UK. [35805]

Mr Hurd: For the Giving Green Paper published in December 2010, long-term trends in volunteering and donating were assessed. This assessment provided part of the evidence base for the policy proposals to increase giving highlighted in the Green Paper. The assessment found that levels of regular formal and informal volunteering have been stable since 2000. Over the last 30 years, average weekly household charity donations have risen largely in line with GDP growth.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of giving levels as a proportion of income for each socio-economic grouping. [35807]

Mr Hurd: For the Giving Green Paper published in December 2010, donation patterns among different socio-economic groups were assessed. This assessment provided part of the evidence base for the policy proposals to increase giving highlighted in the Green Paper. The assessment found that people with high incomes are more likely to donate, but that donors on below average incomes contribute the most as a proportion of their income.

I will place a copy of the Giving Green Paper in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Conferences

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his Department's annual budget for conferences was on *(a)* 7 May 2010 and *(b)* 7 December 2010. [29963]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office's annual budget for conferences on 7 May 2010 was £180,793.

The Cabinet Office's annual budget for conferences on 7 December 2010 was £179,243

These figures represent the total amount budgeted for conferences by those Cabinet Office management units who were able to identify this budget from the Department's accounting system and in the main reflects the budget for conferences either organised or hosted by the Cabinet Office. Some management units have been unable to separately identify their budget for organised conferences as it has been subsumed within generic budget headings.

The annual budget for attendance at conferences by staff is not centrally held and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Former Prime Ministers: Allowances

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether the Government plans to review the limit of public duty costs allowance for former Prime Ministers; [34219]

(2) if he will consider the merits of making public individual claims by former Prime Ministers from the public duty costs allowance. [34220]

Mr Maude: The public duty costs allowance for former Prime Ministers is kept under review.

Government Departments: Flexible Working

Paul Maynard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to encourage Government Departments to adopt flexible working practices which would allow disabled staff to work from home. [34755]

Mr Maude: Departments have a responsibility to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled employees are not put at a substantial disadvantage by their environment, the way things are done or any physical feature of the workplace.

In addition, the Government are committed to offering flexible working to their employees, including those with a disability. The coalition agreement outlines a commitment to extend the right to request flexible working to all employees which is being taken forward by the Minister for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Services, my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr Davey), and has my support.

Government Departments: Security

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what arrangements are in place to determine the grant of passes to those not directly employed by Government Departments authorising access to buildings occupied by such departments; what rules govern the issue of such passes to such individuals; which authority is responsible for vetting applications for such passes; and how many such passes were issued in the latest period for which figures are available. [36050]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* Passes may be issued to those who are required to make frequent visits to specific Government sites, subject to the usual security checks. Individual Departments are responsible for managing access to their sites, though departmental arrangements must comply with the policy principles set out in the HMG Security Policy Framework, available on the Cabinet Office website. For security reasons it would not be appropriate to provide detailed information about specific measures implemented by Departments. The Cabinet Office does not collect information about the number of such passes issued across Government.

NDPBs: Finance

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse arising from the review of non-departmental public bodies in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [36015]

Mr Maude: I refer my hon. Friend to my response on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 827.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will include a value for money test in future reviews of non-departmental public bodies. [35149]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office will publish draft guidance on the new review process shortly.

Public Bodies: Consultants

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) if he will review his Department's guidance on expenditure by public bodies on public affairs consultancies; [35465]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to public bodies on expenditure on public affairs consultancies. [35495]

Mr Maude: Guidance on the use by public bodies of public relations and similar consultancies is set out in Chapter 8 of the Cabinet Office publication, "Public Bodies: A Guide for Departments". This guidance is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/public-bodies-and-appointments

and copies are available in the Library of the House.

The Public Administration Select committee has recommended that Government review this guidance. We will respond formally to the Committee's recommendations in due course.

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility have made payments to public affairs consultancies in the last 12 months. [35516]

Mr Maude: The information is available only at disproportionate cost.

In May 2010 the Government announced a freeze on new consultancy expenditure. Any exception to this freeze (where the estimated value is over £20,000) must be approved by the relevant Minister. In the case of the Cabinet Office, the Minister for the Cabinet Office approves any exception to the consultancy freeze. Expenditure on consultancy is only allowed if the consultancy is deemed to be operationally necessary, or the work cannot be done by in-house staff. All consultancy contracts are subject to a review every three months, for a maximum of nine months. Where contracts go beyond nine months, they must be submitted for approval to the Efficiency and Reform Group for consideration by the Chief Secretary and the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Public Bodies: Lobbying

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to establish monitoring and enforcement procedures to ensure that public bodies do not hire public relations and lobbying organisations. [35151]

Mr Maude: The Public Administration Select Committee has recommended that Government review its monitoring and enforcement procedures on the use by public bodies of PR consultants. We will respond formally to the Committee's recommendations in due course.

Public Sector: Sick Leave

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what steps he has taken to reduce sickness *(a)* rates and *(b)* absence in the public sector; and if he will make a statement; [33092]

(2) whether his Department has established pilot projects to reduce absenteeism in public sector agencies. [33101]

Mr Maude: The individual organisations that make up the public sector have responsibility for ensuring that sickness absence is managed effectively. Cabinet Office hosts a forum for employers which span the civil service, public sector, private and voluntary sectors. This forum tackles cross cutting issues affecting the work force, and shares best practice to address work force issues such as staff sickness absence.

Across the public sector, the Department of Health is working with NHS Employers to improve support for NHS staff health and well-being and reduce sickness absence rates in the NHS. Between April and June 2010 the average sickness absence rate for the NHS in England was 3.89% falling from 4.05% for the same period in 2009.

Many NHS organisations have developed unique approaches to reducing staff absenteeism and have been running local pilots tailored to the needs of their workforce. For example, an NHS Plus initiative improving delivery of workplace and occupational health at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has reduced long term sickness absence rates by 40% since it was launched in 2008.

In response to Dame Carol Black's Review of Health of the UK, a UK wide programme jointly sponsored by Department for Work and Pensions and Department of Health is running 11 pilots to address long term sickness absence across all sectors. The pilots combine a personalised service tailored to the needs of the individual with employment support to address long-term sickness absence. These will run and be evaluated until at least 2011. More information can be found by accessing the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/health-work-and-well-being/our-work/fit-for-work-services/

The level of staff absence across the civil service as a whole is at its lowest since 1999. 41% of all staff had no sickness absence in the year up to 31 March 2010 and the average number of working days lost is currently 8.7. Information about staff sickness absence in the civil service can be viewed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/improving/health/sickness-absence.aspx

The Cabinet Office has also published a civil service health and wellbeing framework which is available to all Departments and can be viewed via the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/improving/health/resources.aspx

Race Online 2012

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to encourage other Government Departments to engage with Race Online 2012; and if he will make a statement. [34242]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office is responsible for encouraging all Departments to engage with Race Online and support its valuable work. Many are already doing so for example Jobcentre Plus having recently become a Race Online partner and appointed a "digital champion" in every Job centre to encourage jobseekers to develop their online skills.

I recently announced the Government's commitment to delivering services digitally by default, and as part of this, emphasised that we will work with Race Online to encourage millions more people to go online, ensuring that no one is excluded from the benefits of better, more efficient online services.

Suicide: Hartlepool

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many suicides there were of people *(a)* of each sex and *(b)* in each age group in Hartlepool constituency in each of the last 10 years. [36441]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides there were of people (a) of each sex and (b) in each age group in Hartlepool constituency in each of the last 10 years. (36441)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths, where suicide was the underlying cause of death, for (a) each sex (Table 1) and (b) each age group (Table 2), in Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, for 2000 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Suicide figures for persons aged 15 years and over in England and Wales from 1991 onwards are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13618

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by sex, Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, 2000-2009[1,2,3,4]

		Deaths
Year	*Males*	*Females*
2000	10	1
2001	7	1
2002	10	4
2003	9	2
2004	4	3
2005	5	2
2006	3	1
2007	5	2
2008	1	0

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by sex, Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, 2000-2009[1,2,3,4]

		Deaths
Year	*Males*	*Females*
2009	7	2

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 (excluding E988.8) for the year 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 (excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for 2001 onwards. From 2007, deaths which were previously coded to Y33.9 are coded to U50.9.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[4] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by age group, Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, 2000-2009[1,2,3,4]

			Deaths (persons)
Year	*15-44*	*45-74*	*75 and over*
2000	4	6	1
2001	4	2	2
2002	8	5	1
2003	4	7	0
2004	3	4	0
2005	4	3	0
2006	2	2	0
2007	6	1	0
2008	0	1	0
2009	4	4	1

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 (excluding E988.8) for the year 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 (excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for 2001 onwards. From 2007, deaths which were previously coded to Y33.9 are coded to U50.9.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2010.

[4] Figures are based on deaths registered in each calendar year.

Voluntary Work

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will estimate *(a)* the number of people engaged in volunteering activity in England and *(b)* the projected change to this number in the next three years as a result of the big society initiative. [35974]

Mr Hurd: The information is as follows:

(a) As part of the Giving Green Paper published in December 2010, long-term trends in volunteering were assessed. The assessment found that levels of regular formal and informal volunteering have been fairly stable since 2000. The most recent data for England and Wales, suggest that around 29 million adults volunteered in 2010, of which, almost 18.5 million do so on a regular basis.

(b) Growing a big society will put people at the heart of their community. It will enable them to take greater responsibility for helping others and themselves to solve problems through social action, including volunteering, and to grasp opportunities to shape their neighbourhoods. The Giving Green Paper set out some innovative ideas for helping people fit volunteering around their everyday lives, and we will expand on this in the White Paper to be published early this year. Although we do anticipate increases in levels of volunteering over the next three years, it would be unrealistic to accurately put a figure on what these might look like at this early stage.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr Offord: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress his Department is making on the implementation of National Citizen Service pilots. [37034]

Mr Hurd: 12 providers have been appointed to run National Citizen Service (NCS) pilots for 16-year-olds in summer 2011. Over 11,000 NCS places will be available in a wide range of locations in England, and those organisations are now in the process of attracting young people to join their pilot schemes. My Department, in conjunction with the Department for Education and the Department for Communities and Local Government, continues to work closely with our 2011 pilot providers and to plan for the second year of NCS pilots in 2012.

Winter Weather Forecasts

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what written long range winter weather forecast his Department received from the Met Office in October 2010. [35462]

Mr Maude: The Met Office provides the Government with regular updates throughout the year to inform short, medium and longer term planning. In late October, the Met Office provided a seasonal outlook for the UK Government which advised that there was a 60% chance that temperatures would be average or warmer and a 70% chance that the would be average or colder.

HEALTH

Arthritis

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to include rheumatoid arthritis in future iterations of the Quality and Outcomes Framework; and if he will make a statement. [36690]

Paul Burstow: The prioritisation of potential indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework is the responsibility of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Blood: Contamination

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the devolved administrations on the implementation of compensation schemes for those infected by hepatitis C as a result of receiving contaminated blood products during the 1970s and 1980s. [36493]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Wythenshawe and Sale East (Paul Goggins) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 543W.

Cancer: Drugs

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how long on average he expects a patient to wait for a response to a funding request to the Cancer Drugs Fund. [36088]

Mr Simon Burns: The Cancer Drugs Fund will be launched in April 2011.

As an interim measure, we have made an additional £50 million available to the national health service to support improved access to cancer drugs in this financial year. In July 2010 the NHS medical director issued guidance to strategic health authorities which makes clear that arrangements for the distribution of this funding should support timely decision-making, bearing in mind the 31 day cancer treatment standard. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library.

Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance he plans to issue to *(a)* strategic health authorities and *(b)* clinical panels on funding treatments from Cancer Drugs Fund allocations for patients with extremely rare cancers; [36089]

(2) what mechanism he plans to put in place to ensure that proposed funding policies by clinical panels for the Cancer Drugs Fund do not discriminate against applications by patients with rare cancers. [36090]

Mr Simon Burns: The public consultation on our proposals for the Cancer Drugs Fund closed on 19 January. We have had almost 200 responses from the national health service, clinicians, pharmaceutical companies, patients, charities, patient groups, members of the public, professional organisations and others.

The consultation asked for views on what advice we can give the clinically-led panels on the specific challenge posed by rarity and whether guidance should be issued on prioritising the fund application process, for example to rarer cancers.

Decisions on the implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund will be taken once the responses to the consultation have been considered.

Cancer: Health Services

Joseph Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on survival rates of implementation of his Department's cancer strategy. [36363]

Paul Burstow: "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", published on 12 January, sets out actions to tackle preventable cancer incidence, to achieve earlier diagnosis of cancer and to improve the quality and efficiency of cancer services. The impact assessment for the strategy estimates that through the plans for earlier diagnosis of symptomatic patients, screening developments and expansion of radiotherapy services we can save at least an additional 5,000 lives every year by 2014-15.

Cannabis

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under the age of 18, *(b)* between 18 and 24, *(c)* between 24 and 30 and *(d)* 30 and above were admitted to hospital for mental illnesses attributable to the use of cannabis or skunk cannabis in each of the last 10 years. [36224]

Paul Burstow: The following table represents the count of finished admissions by required age groups for patients admitted to hospital with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of Cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12).

Data years 2000-01 to 2009-10

			Age group			
	Under 18	*18 to under 24*	*24 to under 30*	*30 and above*	*Age not known*	*Total*
2000-01	69	192	126	194	—	581
2001-02	117	205	134	217	1	674
2002-03	86	245	142	231	—	704
2003-04	140	294	175	281	—	890
2004-05	116	283	210	259	—	868
2005-06	129	300	224	293	—	946
2006-07	92	218	175	251	14	750
2007-08	93	235	131	276	—	735
2008-09	71	197	163	219	1	651
2009-10	93	237	155	225	3	713

Notes:
1. Count of finished admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of Cannabinoids (ICD10 code F12).
2. Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Carers: Public Expenditure

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce a mechanism to monitor the amount of his Department's expenditure which is allocated to carers in each age group. [36251]

Paul Burstow: "Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers' Strategy" identified that £400 million was being made available for carers breaks over the next four years (2011-12 to 2014-15). This funding will be made available in primary care trust (PCT) allocations (pending the introduction of general practitioner (GP) consortia).

It is this Government's policy to enhance freedom for local government and PCTs as much as possible by reducing the ring-fencing of moneys, freeing up resources to concentrate on local priorities and the delivery of essential frontline services. It is for PCTs, and after them GP consortia, to manage their budgets and make decisions about how best to meet the health needs of their local population. However, we are looking at how we can make decision making more transparent.

This includes using:

the NHS Operating Framework, which sets out the priorities for the national health service for the year ahead;

the NHS Outcomes Framework, which sets out the outcomes and indicators that will be used to hold the NHS Commissioning Board to account for the outcomes it delivers through commissioning health services from 2012-13; and

the outcomes framework for adult social care, which is about how we measure quality and outcomes in adult social care.

Individual PCT recurrent revenue allocations are not broken down by service or policy area. It is for PCTs to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations, taking account of local and national priorities. There is not a weighted capitation formula specific to 'care' that would allow needs to be accurately identified at the local level. For these reasons, PCTs have not been advised of individual sums for breaks.

Children: Death

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the rate of mortality for children aged one to 14 years was in each *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* health authority area and *(c)* constituency in the latest year for which figures are available; [35839]

(2)what the rate of death of young people aged 15 to 19 years was by *(a)* accident, *(b)* homicide and *(c)* suicide in each (i) local authority area, (ii) health authority area and (iii) constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [35840]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1. What the rate of mortality for children aged one to 14 years was in each (a) local authority area, (b) health authority area and (c) constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. (35839)

2. What the rate of death of young people aged 15 to 19 years by (a) accident, (b) homicide and (c) suicide was in each (i) local authority area, (ii) health authority area and (iii) constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. (35840)

Tables 1 to 3 provide the number of deaths of children aged one to 14 years in each (a) local authority (Table 1), (b) primary care organisation and local health board (Table 2) and (c) parliamentary constituency (Table 3), in England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available).

Tables 4 to 6 provide the number of deaths where either (a) accidents, (b) homicide or (c) suicide was the underlying cause of death, for persons aged 15 to 19 years, in each (i) local authority (Table 4), (ii) primary care organisation and local health board (Table 5) and (iii) parliamentary constituency (Table 6), in England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available).

Figures for accidents, homicide and suicide in Tables 4 to 6 have been combined to protect confidentiality, in line with the ONS policy on protecting confidentiality within birth and death statistics. Table 7 attached provides the number of deaths separately for each cause where (a) accidents, (b) homicide or (c) suicide was the underlying cause of death, for persons aged 15 to 19 years, in England and Wales, for 2009.

It is ONS practice not to calculate mortality rates where there are fewer than three deaths in an area, as rates based on such low numbers are susceptible to inaccurate interpretation. As this affects a large number of areas within each table, the number of deaths in each area has been provided.

To take the size of each area into account, Tables 8 to 11 provide the mid-year population estimates for (a) children aged one to 14 and (b) persons aged 15 to 19, for each (i) local authority (Tables 8 and 9) and (ii) primary care organisation and local health board (Tables 10 and 11), in England and Wales, for 2009 (the latest year available). Mid-year population estimates for parliamentary constituencies for 2009 will be available on 23 February 2011.

Table 7. Number of deaths where accidents, homicide or suicide was the underlying cause of death, persons aged 15 to 19 years, England and Wales, 2009[1,2,3]

Cause of death	*Persons* *Deaths*
Accidents	365
Homicide	80
Suicide	132

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes V01-X59 (accidents), X85-Y09, U50.9 (homicide) and X60-X84, Y10-Y34 (suicide).

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in 2009.

Departmental Contracts

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36186]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is contained in the following two tables beneath the heading 'Department of Health—single tender contracts awarded since 12 May 2010' (this is the date the Secretary of State for Health was appointed). The first table contains information on the aggregate number and value of single tender contracts below the European Union threshold for public procurement. The second table contains details on each such contract awarded above the threshold: the date the contract was awarded ('Purchase Order date'); the type of services delivered and the supplying company; and finally the value of each contract.

Since 1 January 2010 the EU public procurement threshold for Central Government Departments has been set at £101,323 for supplies and services contracts, which applies to all those in the document.

Department of Health—single tender contracts awarded since 12 May 2010

Table 1: Below OJEU threshold

Purchase order volume	*Purchase order amount exc VAT*
190	8,669,374.00

Table 2: Above OJEU threshold

Purchase order date	*Vendor type*	*Category*	*Supplier name*	*Purchase order amount exc VAT*
9 November 2010	Professional Bodies	Prof Serv—Other Learning and Develop	The Society of Apothecaries	105,000.00
8 November 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Hays Specialist Recruitment Ltd	111,755.00
14 July 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Ernst and Young LLP	120,000.00
28 May 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Oxford Healthcare Associates Ltd	125,000.00
21 January 2011	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	PA Consulting Group Ltd	126,000.00
22 June 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Ernst and Young LLP	128,000.00
7 December 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Peters and Peters Solicitors LLP	146,530.00
14 January 2011	Academic Institution	Professional Services	Manchester University of	149,404.00
2 July 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Jonathan Watts TA Bowe Watts Clargo	179,523.75
19 May 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Capita SHG Resourcing	195,300.00
28 May 2010	Commercial Supplier	Miscellaneous Costs	Exercise Movement and Dance Partnership Ltd	200,000.00
10 August 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Spring Technology	234,520.00
12 January 2011	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	282,000.00
20 August 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Peters and Peters solicitors LLP	291,530.00
27 May 2010	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	PA consulting group Ltd	429,360.00
17 January 2011	Commercial Supplier	Professional Services	Phoenix consultancy	450,000.00

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 883W, on drugs: rehabilitation, what progress the Institute of Psychiatry's National Addiction Centre has made on exploration of the outcomes of the randomised injectible opiate treatment trials; when it will conclude its work; and what plans he has to publish its conclusions. [36512]

Anne Milton: The randomised injectible opiate treatment trial, conducted by the Institute of Psychiatry's National Addiction Centre (NAC) concluded in 2009, and findings were published in the *Lancet* in May 2010. It would be a decision for NAC whether to publish any further reports of that research.

The Drugs Strategy (published in December 2010) "Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug free life", sets out the coalition Government's commitment to continue to examine the potential role of diamorphine prescribing for the small number who may benefit.

We will set out our plans in due course.

General Practitioners: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on practice-based commissioning in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [35973]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental records show that, since May 2010, it has received 10 representations about practice-based commissioning in North Yorkshire, comprising one parliamentary question and nine pieces of correspondence.

Four of the pieces of correspondence were sent by Members of Parliament on behalf of the North Yorkshire Local Involvement Network about their feedback on the White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS" which was published on 12 July 2010.

Health and Social Care Bill

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what equality impact assessment his Department undertook on the Health and Social Care Bill. [36633]

Mr Simon Burns: A full equality impact assessment was published alongside the Bill on 19 January. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/healthandsocialcarebill

In carrying out the equality impact assessment of the Health and Social Care Bill, the Department considered all the relevant protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010 in accordance with good practice guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Health Visitors

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the maximum number of children under five years who may be part of the caseload of a full-time health visitor. [36020]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect data regarding case loads and decisions of this nature will be locally determined.

Our objective is to ensure that certain services, such as those prescribed by the Healthy Child Programme, are available to every family with a young child and that extra help is there for those who need it. By growing the work force by 4,200 health visitors, we want existing and new health visitors to be able to build on their role and skills and provide an important bridge to the wider community, developing local community resources to support families and children and local health issues.

We will shortly publish an implementation plan, which will illustrate how families will benefit from a bigger work force and set out high-level plans for delivery, including work to:

conduct a demographic and geographical analysis to establish location and population need and match with trainees and training places; and

ensure positive correlation between work force growth and population need.

Heroin

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the relative effectiveness in treatment of prescribing *(a)* heroin and *(b)* methadone. [36491]

Anne Milton: In 2003 the National Treatment Agency for substance misuse published "Injectable heroin (and injectable methadone)—Potential roles in drug treatment", which was a review of the both international and United Kingdom studies on injectable heroin and methadone treatment in the management of addiction.

www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/
nta_injectable_heroin_and_methadone_2003_summary.pdf

The findings of this guidance were subsequently incorporated and referred to in the Department's 2007 "Drug misuse and dependence—UK guidelines on clinical management".

www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/clinical_guidelines_2007.pdf

More recently, the results of the randomised injectable opiate treatment trial were reported in *The Lancet* on 28 May 2010. The report's conclusions included, that in this group of entrenched users who had not responded to other forms of treatment,

> "treatment with supervised injectable heroin leads to significantly lower use of street heroin than does supervised injectable methadone or optimised oral methadone".

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals have received prescriptions for *(a)* heroin and *(b)* methadone in each year since 2002. [36492]

Mr Simon Burns: Diamorphine (heroin) is indicated for cough suppression, acute pain, chronic pain, myocardial infarction and acute pulmonary oedema, as well as in the treatment of opioid dependency.

Methadone is indicated for cough suppression, severe pain and for the treatment of opioid dependency.

Prescribing data do not record the number of patients receiving diamorphine and methadone. However, the number of prescriptions dispensed for these drugs is as follows.

		Items (thousand)
	Diamorphine/heroin	*Methadone*
2002	96.0	1,428.4
2003	98.6	1,614.2
2004	102.9	1,810.0
2005	60.8	2,044.0
2006	65.6	2,277.1
2007	83.2	2,491.9
2008	97.8	2,738.0
2009	109.2	2,968.0

Note:
PCA data—Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions.

HIV Infection

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce levels of undiagnosed HIV. [35991]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health has been taking action to reduce undiagnosed and late diagnosis of HIV. We invested £750,000 in eight pilot projects in high prevalence areas looking at new approaches to HIV testing in primary care, non-specialist hospital settings and community social settings.

On 1 December, the Health Protection Agency published an interim report "Time to test for HIV: Expanded healthcare and community HIV testing in England" on their review of these pilots. A copy of the report has already placed in the Library. Findings show that expanding HIV testing in hospital/general practitioner/community settings is feasible, and acceptable to patients and staff. These findings from these pilots will add to our evidence base on increasing HIV testing especially in high prevalence areas. A full report will be produced early 2011.

The Department has also funded the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health to produce the training resource for non-specialist staff, "Tackling HIV Testing—increasing detection and diagnosis".

HIV Infection: Brighton Kemptown

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Brighton, Kemptown constituency were diagnosed with HIV in each of the last three years. [36576]

Anne Milton: The available information for Brighton and Hove Primary Care Trust (PCT) which covers Brighton Pavilion, Brighton Kemptown and Hove, is shown in the following table:

Number of new HIV diagnoses in Brighton and Hove PCT: 2007-09

New HIV diagnoses	*Number*
2007	143
2008	132
2009	111

Notes:
1. Data are new HIV diagnoses reported to the end of June 2010.
2. New diagnosis data do not necessarily reflect recently acquired infections, as patients may live for many years without diagnosis.
3. Data represents place of diagnosis, not place of residence. There is evidence that a substantial proportion of individuals are diagnosed outside of their PCT of residence.
4. Complete data from 2010 will be available from August 2011.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Hospitals: Food

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on applying Government Buying Standards to the food served in hospitals and other NHS facilities; and if he will make a statement. [36087]

Anne Milton: We have no plans to make a statement nor have we had any discussions on the application of the Government Buying Standards (GBS) for food in hospitals or the national health service estate. NHS organisations are encouraged to take up the GBS for food on a voluntary basis in the recently published "NHS Operating Framework 2011/12".

In Vitro Fertilisation

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter from his Department of 11 January 2011, what steps he is taking to support primary care trusts in implementing his Department's strategies on commissioning of IVF services; and if he will make a statement. [36373]

Anne Milton: Primary care trusts are well aware of their statutory commissioning responsibilities and the need to base commissioning decisions on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers.

The NHS deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to primary care trust commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight the importance that those involved in commissioning fertility services have regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

A copy of this communication has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123405.pdf

Additionally, the Department has published a commissioning aid setting out best practice for commissioners, supports Infertility Network UK (INUK)—a leading patient support organisation—to develop and promote standardised access criteria, and to work in partnership with commissioners to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services.

Infant Mortality

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the infant mortality rate was in each *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* health authority area and *(c)* constituency in each year in which figures are available. [35616]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the infant mortality rate was in each (a) local authority area, (b) health authority area and (c) constituency in each year in which figures are available. [35616].

Table 1 provides the infant mortality rate in each (a) local authority and (b) primary care organisation in England and Wales. Figures are for 2007-09, the most recent period for which figures are available. The data are presented as three year aggregates in order to smooth the annual fluctuations in deaths and provide large enough numbers to ensure that the figures are sufficiently robust.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Due to the sensitive nature of infant deaths and the risk of identifying individuals, ONS does not publish infant mortality figures for smaller areas. Consequently, rates by (c) parliamentary constituency are not provided.

Numbers and rates, based on three-year aggregated data, for infant mortality by local authority and strategic health authority are available on the ONS website at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadHome.do

Data are published for 1998-2000 through to 2006-08.

Low Birthweight Babies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of births involved low birth weight infants in each *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* health authority area and *(c)* constituency in each year for which figures are available. [35749]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of births involved low birth weight infants in each (a) local authority area, (b) health authority area and (c) constituency in each year for which figures are available. [35749].

Table 1 provides the percentages of live births in England and Wales with low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams) in each (a) local authority, (b) primary care organisation and (c) parliamentary constituency, for 2005-09, the most recent years for which figures are available.

A copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Information on births is routinely published by different characteristics, including birthweight, and at various geographies. The information is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14408

Mental Health

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of potential links between economic downturns, levels of worklessness and the incidence of mental health disorders; and if he will make a statement. [36387]

Paul Burstow: There is good evidence that in times of recession and high unemployment, rates of mental illness tend to rise. We will soon be publishing a new cross-Government mental health strategy that has the twin aims of promoting and sustaining good mental health and well-being in the wider population, and improving the quality of existing services for people across the full range of mental health problems. It looks at prevalence of problems and effective approaches at different stages in life, stressing the importance of prevention and early intervention.

The Health settlement in the spending review included funding to expand access to talking therapies. The money will complete the roll out of the nationwide training programme and services which began in 2008 and begin to extend the benefits of talking therapies to the young, the elderly, those with serious mental illness and those who have anxiety disorders or depression alongside long-term physical health conditions like diabetes, heart or lung disease. By March 2011, the roll out will achieve 60% geographical coverage of England. The spending review settlement will complete this by 2014-15.

For individuals on benefits, there is support available from all of the Department of Work and Pensions' employment programmes through both mainstream and specialist services. They provide personalised support to help individuals overcome their challenges to work, including job broking, health-related support and signposting to relevant services. In each Jobcentre Plus district, there is a mental health co-ordinator function, which develops practical links between mental health and employment services and provides intelligence to advisers. Jobcentre Plus advisers also have access to disability employment advisers and work psychologists, who provide support and advice in relation to claimants and employees who have the most complex work-related support needs.

Mental Health Services: Nurses

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) at what *(a)* pay grade and *(b)* rank the 30 additional mental health nurses in mental health trusts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be employed when they begin work; and how many he expects to be (i) existing and (ii) newly recruited staff; [36507]

(2) in which mental health trusts the 30 additional mental health nurses announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be stationed; when he expects them to begin work; and whether they are to receive any additional or specialist training. [36508]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health is working with the national health service, Ministry of Defence and service charities to deliver the recommendations put forward by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report to the Prime Minister, 'Fighting Fit', that was published in October 2010. The specification for the employment of 30 additional mental health nurses is currently being developed through the armed forces networks that are led by the strategic health authorities. Commissioning for the service will commence in April 2011. There will be flexibility within the specification to ensure that the additional resources are placed where they are likely to make the most impact for veterans with mental health problems. This specification will ensure that those employed will have the right competencies to deliver this service. Wider training on veterans' issues will also be provided.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of offenders with diagnosed mental health disorders were receiving treatment in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [36227]

Paul Burstow: The information requested is not collected centrally. Currently offenders are screened on arrival at prison and referred for a mental health assessment and treatment, if appropriate. The Department is working with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to roll out a national diversion service at police stations and courts, for offenders with mental health problems, by 2014.

Mental Health: Armed Forces

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what components will be included in the health for heroes scheme; how many family doctors will receive training under the scheme; and how many therapists will be attached to hospitals for the purposes of identifying post-traumatic stress disorders; [36367]

(2) what timetable he has set for the implementation of the health for heroes scheme; when he plans to make an announcement on the details of the scheme; when he plans to introduce training for family doctors under the scheme; and when he plans to implement the attachment of therapists into hospitals for the purposes of identifying post-traumatic stress disorders; [36368]

(3) which Departments will provide funding for the health for heroes scheme in each year to 2014-15; and how much funding each Department will provide; [36369]

(4) how much funding he plans to provide for the health for heroes scheme in each year to 2014-15. [36370]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health is working with the national health service, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and service charities to deliver in England the recommendations put forward by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report to the Prime Minister, 'Fighting Fit', that was published in October 2010. The specification for delivery of 30 additional mental health nurses is currently being developed through the armed forces networks that are led by strategic health authorities. Commissioning for the service will commence in April 2011. There will be flexibility within the specification to ensure that additional resources are placed where they will have the most impact for veterans with mental health problems. This specification will ensure that those employed will have the right competencies to deliver this service. Wider training on veterans' issues will also be provided.

The Department of Health is working with the Royal College of General Practitioners (GPs), MOD and service charities to develop an e-learning package to provide GPs with specific information about the needs and requirements of veterans. The e-learning package will complement GP's formal undergraduate and postgraduate education and training and will build on other initiatives to raise awareness among GPs of the health care needs of veterans and the services available to them. The aim is to have the e-learning package available to GPs by the summer. This educational support will provide GPs with the necessary knowledge and skills to:

Understand the key health issues affecting veterans;

Respond to the common barriers that prevent veterans from accessing health care;

Recognise how mental health problems commonly present in veterans; and

Ensure that veterans get the best possible treatment.

The Department of Health will allocate up to £7.2 million over the spending review period, around £1.8 million per year to deliver the recommendations put forward by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison). Within the MOD, work on assessing any future costs and resource requirements for implementing the recommendations is currently under way and will be assessed as part of the MOD's planning process, but it is not possible to give any financial data at this time.

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what training his Department plans to give to family doctors as part of the proposed health for heroes scheme; when the training will *(a)* commence and *(b)* be completed; and by what date he expects the doctors to be practising; [36516]

(2) how many therapists he proposes to engage in hospitals to identify post-traumatic stress disorder in servicemen as part of the proposed health for heroes scheme; what training and qualifications such therapists will be required to have; and from what date he expects such therapists to be deployed. [36517]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health is working with the Royal College of General Practitioners (GPs), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and service charities to develop an e-learning package to provide GPs with specific information about the needs and requirements of veterans. The e-learning package will complement GPs' formal undergraduate and postgraduate education and training and will build on other initiatives to raise awareness among GPs of the health care needs of veterans and the services available to them. The aim is to have the e-learning package available to GPs by the summer. This educational support will provide GPs with the necessary knowledge and skills to:

Understand the key health issues affecting veterans;

Respond to the common barriers that prevent veterans from accessing health care;

Recognise how mental health problems commonly present in veterans; and

Ensure that veterans get the best possible treatment.

The Department of Health is working with the national health service, MOD and service charities to deliver in England on the recommendations put forward by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report to the Prime Minister, 'Fighting Fit', that was published in October 2010. The specification for the employment of 30 additional mental health nurses is currently being developed through the armed forces networks that are led by the strategic health authorities, and bring together primary care trusts with local representatives of the armed forces community, service charities and others. Commissioning for the service will commence in April 2011. This specification will ensure that those employed will have the right competencies to deliver this service. Wider training on veterans' issues will also be provided.

NHS: Drugs

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the NHS of unused medicines which were subsequently destroyed in the latest year for which figures are available; and for what reason such drugs returned to the NHS are not reissued to patients requiring prescriptions. [34504]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department commissioned the York Health Economics Consortium and the School of Pharmacy at the University of London to carry out research to determine the scale, causes and cost of waste medicines in England. The report, "Evaluation of the Scale Causes and Cost of Waste Medicines", was published by the researchers on 23 November 2010. It found that the gross cost of unused NHS prescription medicines was an estimated £300 million a year in England for 2009, of which the researchers estimated that £150 million was avoidable waste. The report also concluded that there was potential for greater financial and health gains through people taking their medicines as intended.

While we are concerned about wastage from unused medicines, we cannot promote the reuse of returned medicines from patients on grounds of hygiene and safety.

NHS: Fertility

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether commissioning of NHS infertility services will come within the remit of the proposed NHS Commissioning Board; and if he will make a statement. [36372]

Anne Milton: Responsibility for the commissioning of national health service infertility services has not yet been agreed.

NHS: Training

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of the Stonewall NHS Leadership programme at Ashridge Business School in March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [36136]

Paul Burstow: The Stonewall NHS Leadership Programme is being delivered by Stonewall at no cost to the national health service. The Department is funding the programme at a cost of £36,000 with the aim of providing targeted leadership support to lesbian, gay and bisexual staff within the NHS. The programme will contribute towards the Government Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Action Plan to be launched in February 2011.

North East Offender Health Commissioning Unit

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the merits of each application to the North East Offender Health Commissioning Unit for the award of a contract to provide NHS primary care services in respect of *(a)* quality, *(b)* delivery, *(c)* risk and *(d)* price. [36483]

Paul Burstow: Responsibility for commissioning health services in publicly run prisons in England has been fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts since 2006.

This is a local issue for North East Offender Health Commissioning Unit to comment on their own procurement process.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who used a pre-payment certificate for prescriptions in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many people purchased a pre-payment certificate in each of the last five years. [36038]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not collected on the number of people using a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC). Information on the number of PPCs valid on 20 January 2011 is shown in the following table.

PPCs active[1] on 20 January 2011, England[2]

Certificate duration	*Number*
3 months	161,961
12 months	673,498
Total	835,459

[1] The PPC expiry date was on or after 20 January 2011.

[2] PPCs can have a start date one month prior to or one month after the date the application is received by NHS HwHC . Therefore the number of active PPCs on 20 January may increase if backdated PPCs are issued.

Source:

NHS Help with Health Costs (HwHC) PPC database.

The number of PPCs issued or purchased since 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

PPCs issued or purchased, England

	Duration of certificates			
	3 month	*4 month*	*12 month*	*Total*
2005-06	—	638,413	524,232	1,162,645
2006-07	—	650,782	520,449	1,171,231
2007-08[1]	474,570	176,503	593,507	1,244,580
2008-09	730,592	—	652,870	1,383,462
2009-10	714,594	—	662,588	1,377,182
2010-11[2]	540,604	—	504,166	1,044,770

[1] 3 Month PPCs were introduced in July 2007.

[2] 2010-11 covers 1 April to 20 January 2011.

Source:

NHS Help with Health Costs (HwHC) PPC database.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 126W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, when he and his Ministerial colleagues plan to look at options for creating a new system of prescription charges and exemptions in England; and by what date he expects to have agreed a set of options. [36046]

Mr Simon Burns: We are continuing to explore options for reforming the current prescription charging arrangements, taking into account the financial context. In particular, we are examining the implications of the introduction of universal credit in relation to those current benefits that entitle the recipient of that benefit to free prescriptions. We are also looking at the implications of state pension age changes. We will make announcements about how these changes will be implemented in due course.

Primary Care Trusts: Debts

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on future liabilities for sums owed by primary care trusts. [36138]

Mr Simon Burns: The "2011/12 NHS Operating Framework" states that general practitioner consortia will have their own budgets from 2013-14. They will not be responsible for resolving primary care trust legacy debt that arose prior to 2011-12.

The detailed financial regime for the new health system is still being developed and part of that development will include the treatment of existing liabilities within the Statement of Financial Position of Primary Care Trusts for the future.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Stuart Andrew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase the availability of community-based testing for sexually transmitted infections. [35990]

Anne Milton: On 21 December 2010, we published "Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Consultation on the funding and commissioning routes for public health", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The aim of this consultation, which closes on 31 March, is to ensure the Department gets details of the new public health system right while also delivering significant improvements to the health of the population.

The Department proposes that local authorities will be responsible for commissioning comprehensive open access sexual health services, using funds from the ring-fenced public health budget. This includes commissioning testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including opportunistic Chlamydia testing in the community, high quality partner notification activity and working with general practitioner practices to encourage testing and treatment of STIs in primary care.

Smoking: Health Services

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people accessed the NHS Smoke Free website in each quarter since 1 April 2009. [35980]

Anne Milton: The following table shows the number of people who visited the national health service Smoke Free website in each quarter since 1 April 2009.

		Number
Q1	April to June 2009	337,134
Q2	July to September 2009	501,589
Q3	October to December 2009	567,853
Q4	January to March 2010	915,259
Q1	April to June 2010	234,569
Q2	July to September 2010	162,938
Q3	October to December 2010	248,873

The figures above are based on unique visitors to the website, not on the total number of visits.

Social Services

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the minimum annual number of site visits to social care providers under the new inspection methodology and staffing complement proposed for the Care Quality Commission; and if he will make a statement. [36021]

Paul Burstow: The new registration system for private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers was set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). It came into effect from 1 October 2010.

The 2008 Act does not set minimum inspection frequencies for services. Instead, it enables the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to adopt a proportionate approach to inspection. Discussions about when to inspect are based on ongoing intelligence gathering and an assessment of risk. This means CQC targets its resources on providers where the risk is highest, while reducing the regulatory burden on providers where the risk is low.

CQC implements its approach to inspections in two ways. CQC carries out planned and responsive reviews of a provider's compliance with the registration requirements. A planned review of compliance is a scheduled check of compliance with all of the 16 key essential safety and quality requirements. A responsive review of compliance is carried out when information, or a gap in information, raises concerns about people not experiencing the outcomes they should. Unlike a planned review of compliance, a responsive review is not a full check of compliance with all 16 key essential requirements; it targets the area(s) and outcomes that the specific concerns or gaps relate to.

In terms of staffing, CQC is an independent body and it is therefore for CQC to determine the appropriate staffing complement in order to carry out its functions efficiently and effectively.

Strokes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure co-ordination between GP consortia in order to provide quality stroke care. [36628]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) consortia working with other health and care professionals will commission the great majority of NHS services for their patients, including stroke care services. They will not be directly responsible for commissioning services that GPs themselves provide, nor will they be responsible for commissioning the other family health services. These will be the responsibility of the NHS Commissioning Board, as will national and regional specialised commissioning.

The NHS Commissioning Board will support GP consortia in their commissioning decisions. The board will provide leadership for quality improvement through commissioning. This will include setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and in the case of stroke, the national stroke strategy, in a way that promotes joint working across health, public health and social care.

Furthermore, the Health and Social Care Bill provides for consortia to work collaboratively on commissioning, for example, by entering into lead commissioner and pooled budgetary arrangements.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his proposed National Commissioning Board will include quality markers from the national stroke strategy in its commissioning guidance. [36629]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Commissioning Board will have a vital role in providing national leadership for driving up the quality of care across health commissioning, including stroke services. The Board will do this by supporting general practitioner consortiums in a number of ways including:

publishing evidence based commissioning guidance and model care pathways building on the national stroke strategy and the recently published National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence quality standard for stroke as appropriate; and

designing the Commissioning Outcomes Framework and the new quality premium.

It will be for the Board to determine the details of its work programme and the content of commissioning guidance.

Suicide

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess long-term trends in rates of suicide among those aged *(a)* 15 to 19, *(b)* 20 to 24 and *(c)* 65 years and over. [35798]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking about long-term trends in rates of suicide among those aged (a) 15 to 19, (b) 20 to 24 and (c) 65 years and over. (35798)

The table provides age-specific mortality rates, where suicide was the underlying cause of death, for persons aged (a) 15 to 19, (b) 20 to 24 and (c) 65 years and over, in England and Wales, for 1991 to 2009 (the latest year available).

Suicide figures for persons aged 15 years and over in England and Wales from 1991 onwards are available on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13618

Sunbeds

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to publicise the implementation of the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 in England; [35989]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of persons in England *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* aged 18 and 19 years using sunbeds. [36158]

Anne Milton: The Department does not routinely collect information on the number and age of persons using sunbeds in England. However, information summarising sunbed usage in different age groups is available from a number of sources including:

Cancer Research UK

http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/skin/sunbeds

The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment

www.comare.org.uk/documents/COMARE13thReport.pdf

The South West Public Health Observatory

www.swpho.nhs.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=68377

We are working with stakeholders to provide appropriate information relating to the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010.

Tobacco: Retail Trade

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects on public health of removing tobacco point of sale displays from retail outlets. [36663]

Anne Milton: The impact assessment for the Health Act 2009 sets out the Department's assessment of the likely public health benefits of removing tobacco displays in shops. The impact assessment has already been placed in the Library.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive device attacks there have been on UK forces in Afghanistan in each month since April 2009. [35527]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within the Task Force Helmand area of operations in Helmand province, which includes the majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan. This area of responsibility has not stayed constant during the period in question. The figures refer to an explosion that has subsequently been reported by units operating within the Task Force Helmand area of responsibility. This includes both 'laid' Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and suicide (both vehicle and person-borne) devices. These figures do not include IED finds with no detonation or IED false alarms.

Month	*IED attacks*
April 2009	21
May 2009	46
June 2009	81
July 2009	107
August 2009	83
September 2009	76
October 2009	63
November 2009	67
December 2009	69
January 2010	79
February 2010	79
March 2010	71
April 2010	45
May 2010	75
June 2010	79
July 2010	89
August 2010	76
September 2010	67
October 2010	35
November 2010	48
December 2010	61

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment. It is modified over time as more information becomes available.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army personnel of each rank based in Northern Ireland were deployed on operations in Afghanistan in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [36023]

Nick Harvey: The numbers currently available for Territorial Army personnel of each rank based in Northern Ireland who were deployed in Afghanistan over the last three years, are shown in the following table:

Rank	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
LtCol	0	0	0
Maj	10	0	0
Capt	20	10	0
Lt/2Lt	10	0	0
WO1	0	0	0
WO2	10	0	0
SSgt	10	10	0
Sgt	20	10	10
Cpl	20	10	10
LCpl	20	20	10
Pte	50	40	30
Total	160	100	60

Notes:

1. Data exclude all special forces personnel. Due to ongoing validation of the Joint Personnel Administration system, all data provided are provisional and subject to review.
2. Numbers may include repeat tours, although each individual is only recorded once in each year. Total numbers deployed will not equal the sum of the individual years.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Entries marked '0' are zero or rounded to zero.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are deployed at each overseas location on operations. [35893]

Nick Harvey: The following table shows the number of troops deployed on operations at overseas locations:

Location	*Endorsed number (as at 21 January 2011)*[1]
Afghanistan	9,500
At sea	[2]1,300
Bahrain	150
Cyprus	30
Iraq	100
Oman	450
Qatar	150
South Atlantic	1,500
UAE	50
Other	[3]<50

[1] Rounded to the nearest 50 personnel.

[2] Numbers at sea in support of operations in the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

[3] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, headquarters liaison officers and capacity building activities.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not, therefore, publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military vehicles of each type were reported stolen in the UK in each year since 2009. [36085]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the number of military vehicles reported to the Ministry of Defence Police as stolen during the years 2009 and 2010.

Vehicle type	*Number reported stolen*
2009	
Car	4
Van	1
Landrover	2
Roadsweeper	1
Inflatable dinghy	1
2010	
Pick up truck	1
Bedford truck	1
Landrover	7
Inflatable dinghy and trailer	1

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles of each type in each armed service were *(a)* in service and *(b)* available for operations on the latest date for which figures are available. [35891]

Peter Luff: I am withholding information on the numbers of vehicles available as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

The number of armoured vehicles of each type in service is shown in the following table:

Vehicle	*Total number in service*
AS90	166
Challenger 2	345
CRARRV	81
CVR(T)	1,179
Fuchs	11
FV430 (Mk 2 and Bulldog)	900
Saxon	0
Titan	33
Trojan	33
Warrior	785
Mastiff	304
Panther	412
Ridgback	155
Snatch (all variants)	574
Vector	179
Viking	161
Wolfhound	73
Husky	236

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles will be retired as a result of decisions taken in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [36082]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence will reduce its holdings of Challenger 2, AS-90, MLRS, Warrior, CVR(T) and FV430 in light of operational priorities and revised planning assumptions as laid down in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Exact numbers are the subject of the ongoing defence planning round and are yet to be finalised.

AWE Aldermaston

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the re-kit programmes for *(a)* the A45 and *(b)* the A90 facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston over the lifetime of the programmes. [35884]

Peter Luff: The estimated Ministry of Defence expenditure on the re-kit programmes for the A45 and A90 facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston over the lifetime of the programmes is in the order of £32 million and £272 million respectively at outturn prices.

AWE Aldermaston: Fires

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 37W, on the Atomic Weapons Establishment, by what date he expects to place in the Library the post-redaction reports from the Astral Bend 10 nuclear weapons emergency exercise. [35817]

Peter Luff: Further to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 503W, work continues on the review of these documents and a copy should be placed in the Library of the House prior to the Easter recess.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 503W, on AWE Aldermaston: fires, by what date he expects to place in the Library a copy of the Atomic Weapons Establishment emergency plan for dealing with incidents in the AWE Aldermaston conventional explosives area. [35818]

Peter Luff: Further to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 22 November 2010, *Official Report,* column 37W, work continues on assessing the content of the Emergency Plan. I anticipate that a copy will be placed in the Library of the House prior to the Easter recess.

AWE Aldermaston: Radioactive Waste

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations his Department has received from the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) on the desirability of storing radioactive waste from decommissioned submarines at AWE sites. [35885]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has not received any representations from either AWE Management Limited or AWE plc on the desirability of storing radioactive waste from ex-Royal Navy nuclear submarines at Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites.

Briefings have been provided to AWE plc senior management on the Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP), to ensure that the company is aware of SDP activities that may be relevant to the sites it operates on behalf of the MOD. This is because the SDP Proposed Site Criteria and Screening Paper identified MOD-owned sites with existing nuclear licences as one of three generic categories of sites that should be the subject of more detailed analysis. Two AWE sites fall into this generic category.

The SDP Proposed Site Criteria and Screening Paper is available on the following website:

www.submarinedismantling.co.uk/assets/downloads/sdp/sdp_proposed_site_criteria_screening_paper.pdf

A copy of the paper has been placed in the Library of the House.

Challenger Tanks

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to maintain the Challenger Two Main Battle Tank beyond 2020; and if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of such maintenance. [36081]

Peter Luff: The cost of in-service support for Challenger 2 in this financial year was approximately £35 million. Future support costs will depend upon the number of platforms in service, activity levels and operational usage. These factors are subject to our ongoing planning round following publication of the strategic defence and security review. The planned out of service date for Challenger 2 is 2035.

Defence Vetting Agency

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment the Chief Executive of the Defence Vetting Agency has made of possible reductions in the *(a)* budget and *(b)* staffing levels of her agency; and what level of reductions are under assessment. [35823]

Mr Robathan: In line with other areas of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) is currently examining what reductions can sensibly be made as a result of the strategic defence and security review and the spending review. The outcomes of the both of these are being developed through the MOD's annual planning round. This is expected to conclude in spring 2011. The final decisions on funding for the DVA will ensure that the MOD can continue to provide an effective level of security vetting for its staff and contractors.

Defence: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of procurement of *(a)* aircraft carriers, *(b)* the Joint Strike Fighter, *(c)* the Trident replacement programme, *(d)* Type 45 destroyers, *(e)* the Future Rapid Effects System, *(f)* Astute Class submarines and *(g)* Typhoons in the next 12 months. [36086]

Peter Luff: Expenditure on individual projects in the coming year is still being finalised as part of the Ministry of Defence's planning process. However, we do not routinely publish figures for anticipated annual project expenditure, as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 221-2W, on defence: procurement, what assessment he has made of the compliance of each project history document with his Department's guidance set out in Maintaining a Project History, v.4.0, August 2007. [36578]

Peter Luff: Project histories are not subject to compliance review. Departmental good practice guidance on maintaining project histories allows scope for project team leaders to interpret it to best meet the needs of their project depending on its size, complexity and nature. This ensures that the main elements of the guidance are considered.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010; [35402]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35424]

Mr Robathan: Information on key public appointments made since May 2010 is published in individual press releases. These should include information on remuneration. Press releases are available at

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/PressCentre/PressReleases

There have been 173 public appointments made to Ministry of Defence non-departmental public bodies since May 2010. Of those appointed, 36 are women and 137 are men. 163 of the appointments are voluntary members of the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees, who represent the interests of war disablement pensioners and war widow(er)s. They are unpaid and receive only reasonable out of pocket expenses. The Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation appointed one unpaid member. There were five appointments to the National Army Museum Council. Council members are unpaid but receive reasonable expenses. There were four appointments to the Defence Scientific Advisory Council. The chairman and council members are paid a fee for each day worked, plus reasonable travel and subsistence costs. The exact amounts depend on the number of days they are required to work each year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on *(a)* pay, *(b)* pensions and *(c)* equipment in 2009-10. [36074]

Nick Harvey: The information available for 2009-10 is provided in the following table.

	Pay		Pensions		Equipment	
Financial year	*£ billion*	*Percentage*	*£ billion*	*Percentage*	*£ billion*[1]	*Percentage*
2009-10	10.2	20.4	3.0	6.0	13.2	26.3

[1] The figure quoted comprises capital expenditure on equipment, equipment support and research and development costs.

Source:

Departmental Resource Accounts 2009-10 and UKDS 2010, Table 1.4.

In addition, payments made under the separately funded Armed Forces Pensions Scheme for 2009-10 were £3.5 billion.

Harrier Aircraft

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has for GR9 Harrier aircraft to be retained in reserve after their withdrawal from service; and if he will make a statement; [34898]

(2) what techniques exist for the maintenance in long-term storage of aircraft which have been withdrawn from service; [34899]

(3) if he will make it his policy to prevent any dismantling of Harrier aircraft withdrawn from service; and if he will make a statement; [34901]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of mothballing *(a)* each and *(b)* all of the Harrier aircraft after they have been withdrawn from service. [34902]

Peter Luff: The Harrier aircraft retired from service with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force on 15 December 2010. There are no plans to retain these aircraft as a reserve capability.

The Harrier fleet is currently in storage and is receiving minimum maintenance including anti-deterioration measures to keep the aircraft in an airworthy condition for possible sale. It is too early to say what the final disposal arrangements will be and any associated storage costs will be considered as part of that process.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with officers of the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force on the potential of Harrier aircraft which have been mothballed to be utilised in the event of an emergency. [34900]

Peter Luff: Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Harrier aircraft retired from service on 15 December 2010. There are no plans to retain these aircraft as a reserve or emergency capability. The National Security Council decision to retire the Harrier fleet was agreed collectively by the Service Chiefs.

HMS Prince of Wales

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of HMS Prince of Wales. [36249]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review announcement on 19 October 2010 stated that we plan to deliver the carrier strike capability from around 2020 with the carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter and a Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear to enhance the effectiveness of UK carrier strike.

In conjunction with industry and our international partners we are investigating how best to deliver this outcome, including which vessel or vessels will be converted and at what point in their build schedule. No decisions have yet been taken. Construction work is due to begin on HMS Prince of Wales in May 2011.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft of each type were in service with the Royal Air Force on the most recent date for which figures are available. [36083]

Nick Harvey: The number of aircraft in service with the RAF as at 21 January 2011 is provided in the following table.

Aircraft type	*In-service fleet (Number)*
BAE 146	2
BAE 125	6
C-17	7
Dominie[1]	9
Hawk T1	129
Hawk T2	17
Hercules C130K	11
Hercules C130J	24
King Air	4
Nimrod R1	2
Sentinel	5
Sentry	6
Tornado F3	15
Tornado GR4	137
TriStar	9
Tucano	93
Typhoon	70
VC10	13
Vigilant	65
Viking	82

[1] Dominie was withdrawn from service on 21 January.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cannibalisations of each type of Royal Air Force aircraft there have been in each year since 2009. [36084]

Peter Luff: Cannibalisation is where one aircraft benefits from the removal of serviceable parts from another. It is a routine and temporary measure to ensure that the required number of aircraft is available for front line duty.

The number of cannibalisations for 2009 and 2010 for fixed wing aircraft is provided in the following table:

Aircraft	*2009*	*2010*
Harrier (all types)[1]	885	647
Tornado GR4	720	709
Tornado F3	48	32
Typhoon	712	1,005
Nimrod MR2[2]	334	67
Nimrod R1	143	103
TriStar	81	167
VC-10	122	83
Hercules C130K	45	30
Hercules C130J	405	469
Sentinel R1	69	92
Sentry	156	307
BAE 125	36	51
BAE 146	9	2
C17	43	58
Dominie	12	6
Hawk T1	359	184
Hawk T2	13	43
Tucano	18	5
Vigilant	14	4
Viking	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Harrier was withdrawn from service on 15 December 2010

[2] Nimrod MR2 was withdrawn from service on 31 March 2010

[3] Combined with Vigilant

Military Bases: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to have made an assessment of the effects of the outcome of the strategic defence and security review on the defence estate in Northern Ireland. [36024]

Mr Robathan: An impact assessment of the effects of the outcome of the strategic defence and security review will be made once decisions regarding future basing have been taken.

Nuclear Weapons

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newport West (Paul Flynn) of 12 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 503W, on nuclear weapons, what *(a)* findings, *(b)* safety improvement notices and *(c)* immediate safety requirements were issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator in the period 2005 to 2010. [35886]

Peter Luff: No immediate safety requirements were issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) during the period 2005 to 2010.

A total of four safety improvement notices have been issued during this period as follows:

	Subject
2005	Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2001 (REPPIR) Submission.
2006	Air Transport Emergency Arrangements.
2010	Babcock Event No 19720: Failure to Reinstate Primary Safety Systems.
2010	Nuclear Propulsion Project Team, Organisation for Delivery of Nuclear Safety by the Approval Authority role.

In respect of the findings, I will write to the hon. Member.

Nuclear Weapons: Decommissioning

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on producing a decommissioning and disposal strategy for the defence nuclear programme; and when he expects such a strategy document to be published. [35747]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) team responsible for producing the decommissioning and disposal strategy for the defence nuclear programme is part way through the drafting process, with oversight from the Defence Nuclear Executive Board. This work is being carried out in liaison with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), in recognition of the need to align the MOD's strategy with the NDA's strategy for the civil nuclear sector.

Good progress is being made and, on the basis that this continues, we hope to publish the document by this summer in line with the NDA's publication of its strategy.

Reserve Forces: Recruitment

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* officer and *(b)* non-officer recruits joined the (i) Territorial Army, (ii) Royal Naval Reserve and (iii) Royal Auxiliary Air Force in each defence region in each of the last six years. [36025]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held in the format requested. The services collect and collate this information differently. The information that is available is presented in the following tables:

Naval Services

Financial year	*2003-04*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Scotland and Northern Ireland						
Officers	3	6	2	2	3	6
Ratings	25	40	26	24	28	67
North of England						
Officers	1	8	4	2	1	1

Naval Services

Financial year	*2003-04*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Ratings	34	19	36	23	24	30
Wales and West of England						
Officers	16	33	5	20	9	4
Ratings	51	42	44	49	37	54
East of England						
Officers	18	41	7	15	15	13
Ratings	45	77	42	25	23	60
Location unknown						
Officers	2	0	2	3	1	4
Ratings	0	4	0	b	0	0

Army

Financial year	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Territorial Army			
Officer	46	71	29
Other Rank	4,670	6,514	6,089

Royal Air Force

Financial year	*Number*
2004-05	258
2005-06	244
2006-07	315
2007-08	338
2008-09	444
2009-10	411

Trident Submarines

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's estimate is of the cost of purchasing long-lead items required for the Vanguard submarine replacement programme assessment phase ahead of the main gate decision. [35746]

Peter Luff: The programme to replace the Vanguard Class of submarines has yet to enter the assessment phase. During this phase a number of long lead items will be ordered so they will be available to use, as needed, after the main gate decision point planned for 2016. Not to do so would lengthen construction time and potentially impact the plan to deliver the first boat in around 2028. Final decisions on exactly what long lead items will be required and when, will not be taken until after initial gate.

The value of long lead items will be dependent on the work programme to be approved at initial gate.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Academic Freedom

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to address extremism on university campuses. [36666]

Mr Willetts: A number of steps have been taken to address extremism on campus over the past three years:

Each university has a designated police officer with whom the university management team can discuss issues relating to extremism, radicalisation and recruitment by terrorist organisations;

Guidance was given to all institutions on how to manage the risk of violent extremism occurring and how to promote campus cohesion;

The National Union of Students work closely with their student societies to help them understand the risks associated with invitation to extreme speakers.

Universities are now more aware of the risks and how to manage them but we recognise that more needs to be done. As part of the review of the Prevent strategy currently under way, we will be considering what additional activity we need to undertake with the university sector to increase their resilience to extremism and to enable them to give more effective and earlier support to students who may be vulnerable to the effects of extremist activity on campus. This review, which is being led by the Home Office, is expected to be completed by the middle of February, with a new Prevent strategy published before Easter 2011.

Arts

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when UK Trade and Investment plans to announce its strategy for the creative industries sector. [36362]

Mr Prisk: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is planning to launch its new four year strategy towards the end of this financial year. UKTI will continue to support the creative industries and a business programme will be made available soon in the new financial year.

Asbestos: Canada

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has discussed with Ministers in the Government of *(a)* Canada and *(b)* Quebec the investment of each in the mining of asbestos for export to developing countries. [35607]

Mr Prisk: No.

Banks: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had with representatives of the banking sector in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [36027]

Mr Davey: The Secretary of State has held no meetings with representatives of the banking sector in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months.

Business: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what actions the Technology Strategy Board undertook in each of the last five years to improve the relationship between business and higher education institutions; and if he will make a statement; [36634]

(2) what his assessment is of the effectiveness of the Technology Strategy Board's work to improve the relationship between business and higher education institutions; and if he will make a statement. [36635]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board supports technology innovation by UK businesses in those areas which offer the greatest scope for boosting UK growth and productivity on the basis of business and academic strength. To deliver this goal it works with partners across Government including, importantly, the research councils, as this ensures that investments in research are more closely informed by business, and that businesses will more readily adopt innovations that stem from excellent research.

Since its establishment in July 2007, the partnership with the research councils has become stronger and more diverse, evolving from traditional areas (e.g. aerospace) to addressing key challenges (e.g. sustainable agriculture and food and stratified medicine) and growing sectors of the economy that are important to the UK (e.g. creative industries).

The scale of research council activity aligned with the Technology Strategy Board (announced and projected) now totals £189 million, and has exceeded the original target of £120 million over the current Spending Review period. Furthermore, over two thirds of the 900 current collaborative R and D projects, which account for a majority of the Technology Strategy Board's direct funding, have at least one university partner collaborating with business, and its knowledge transfer networks and knowledge transfer partnerships, enable business and academia to collaborate to improve competitiveness and productivity through better use of knowledge, technology and skills. Networks bring together key individuals with a shared interest in areas aligned with Technology Strategy Board priorities, and partnerships allow the placement of skilled individuals into business injecting vital know-how to enable the strategic development of the business.

Moving forward, the research councils and the Technology Strategy Board have identified a number of strategic priority areas within the broad themes of high-value manufacturing; health care; digital; low carbon; energy and resource efficiency, for collaboration, and the research councils will also work with the Technology Strategy Board to help deliver technology and innovation centres.

It should also be noted that the Technology Strategy Board will be the subject of a formal five-yearly review in 2012 which will assess its performance among other issues.

Devolved Administrations

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on activities to promote competitiveness. [36681]

Mr Prisk: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited Scotland and held discussions on a wide range of issues facing the UK economy. He intends to visit Wales and Northern Ireland in the near future to hold similar discussions. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State remains committed to dialogue with the devolved Administrations to ensure that the whole of the UK remains a competitive place to do business.

Export: Burma

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of exports to Burma was in each of the last three years; and what were the main products so exported. [36470]

Mr Prisk: Recorded UK exports of goods to Burma were worth just under £4 million in each of 2007, 2008 and 2009. The main exports were beverages and medicinal products in all three years, and power generating equipment in 2007.

The Office for National Statistics estimated UK exports of services to Burma were worth £4 million in each of 2008 and 2009; consistent estimates for 2007 are not available.

The Government discourage trade and investment with Burma and UK Trade and Investment offers no commercial services to companies wishing to trade or invest there. EU sanctions are in place against Burma.

Exports: China

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce administrative burdens on the issuing of export licences for small and medium-sized businesses wishing to trade with China. [36584]

Mr Prisk: All export licence applications, including those for export to China, are considered on a case by case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria and the associated EU Code of Conduct.

We have taken steps in recent years to reduce administrative burdens on the issuing of export licences in general. In September 2007 we moved to a fully electronic web based processing system, known as SPIRE. This replaced the previous system of paper licences and provides a complete end-to-end e-business service. This change benefited all exporters.

The Government publish licence processing target times. For standard individual export licences, the target is to process 70% of these within 20 working days; although if extra information is requested and not supplied, this will inevitably delay resolution of the case. Additionally, sensitive destinations, such as China which is subject to an EU arms embargo, sometimes take longer to process due to the need to apply greater scrutiny. Furthermore, the Government's performance against these targets for each destination country is published in the Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many debt advisers have been funded through the Financial Inclusion Fund in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* each borough in the West Midlands in each of the last five years. [36841]

Mr Davey: There are around 500 debt advisers funded via the Financial Inclusion Fund's Face-to-Face (F2F) debt advice project, of which around 60 F2F debt advisers were employed in the West Midlands area. The funds which we provided aimed to maintain this level of advice support over the five years.

The number of debt advisers covering the West Midlands by area is as follows:

Area	*Number*
Birmingham	11
Coventry	4
Dudley	3
Herefordshire	1
Sandwell	5
Shropshire	1.5
Solihull	1
Staffordshire	6.5
Stoke-on-Trent	6
Telford	2
Walsall	4
Warwickshire	4
Wolverhampton	6.5
Worcestershire	7
Total	62.5

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who have received debt advice funded through the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the last five years. [36934]

Mr Davey: In each of the last five years, the number of individuals receiving debt advice from the Face-to-Face debt advice project funded via the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) is as follows.

Financial years	*Number*
2006/07	26,567
2007/08	92,635
2008/09	100,968
2009/10	105,155
2010 to 30 September	53,679
Total	379,004

The Debt Advice in Prisons project run by the Legal Service Commission is also funded from FIF, but this Department does not have total figures for the number of clients advised under that project.

Further Education: Ashfield

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people resident in Ashfield constituency participated in further education *(a)* in the academic year 2009-10 and *(b)* in each of the three years prior to the introduction of the education maintenance allowance. [31077]

Mr Gibb: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education and training for young people in each local authority (LA) in England are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June. The full SFR can be found on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/index.shtml

Figures are not available at parliamentary constituency level, so LA figures for Nottinghamshire are provided in this response. The latest figures relate to the end of 2008, part way through the 2008/09 academic year.

The latest figures show that in Nottinghamshire LA an estimated 8,800 young people of academic age 16 (usually those in their first year after compulsory education) were in some form of education or work based learning (WBL) at the end of 2008. This represented 86% of the resident population.

Education maintenance allowance (EMA) was introduced nationally from September 2004. The following time-series shows the number and proportion of 16-year-olds in education or WBL in Nottinghamshire for the three years prior to its introduction, and for every year subsequently for which data are available:

Participation in education and work based learning (WBL) of academic age 16 years[1]

	Nottinghamshire		*England*	
End of year	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2001	7,700	82	523,500	83
2002	8,100	85	527,500	84
2003	8,200	82	539,700	83
2004	8,300	81	562,300	85
2005	8,200	83	563,500	86
2006	8,400	82	579,800	87
2007	8,700	84	590,900	88
2008	8,800	86	602,900	91

[1] Numbers rounded to the nearest 100, and proportions to the nearest percentage point.

We are committed to making sure that young people from low income households can continue in education and training post-16. We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in learning.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether funding for higher education institutions in London to take account of additional costs in London will be additional to teaching funding in the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [36646]

Mr Willetts: We will set out our priorities for the remaining teaching grant in the forthcoming Higher Education White Paper. This will include consideration of the additional costs for certain groups of institutions, subjects and students.

Higher Education: Sanctions

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what sanctions will be imposed on higher education institutions which do not comply with an access agreement made with the Office for Fair Access to Higher Education. [36464]

Mr Willetts: The Director of Fair Access has a range of sanctions available to use against any institution that is not meeting the terms of its access agreement.

The major sanction available is not to approve or renew an access agreement. This would remove the institution's right to charge its students above the basic level. The Director of Fair Access may also impose a fine (via the Higher Education Funding Council for England) of up to £500,000, or require restitution if students have been disadvantaged or commitments have not been honoured.

On 7 December I published draft guidance to the Director of Fair Access setting out my expectations and suggestions as to how the Director might approach the approval and monitoring of institutions' access agreements. Final guidance will be published shortly.

The basic and higher levels of graduate contribution are changing from 1 September 2012: Much more public funding will be reaching universities via students, supported by up-front loans from the public purse. These changes are significant, and we want to monitor their effects carefully. The draft guidance to the Director of Fair Access therefore asks him to review access agreements annually, rather than every five years as at present.

We will be publishing a White Paper on higher education reforms during the early part of this year. As part of that we will consider if changes are needed to strengthen the role of the Director of Fair Access further.

Aptuit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will meet *(a)* management and *(b)* employees of Aptuit to discuss that company's proposal to close its sites at Livingston and Riccarton. [36674]

Mr Prisk: This is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Bournemouth

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for local enterprise partnerships in the Bournemouth area; and if he will make a statement. [36418]

Mr Prisk: Local enterprise partnerships are locally driven. A proposal which covered the Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset area was received in response to the joint letter from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, dated 29 June. This proposal did not meet all the Government's expectations as set out in the Local Growth White Paper. Officials have been working with partners in the area as they develop a revised proposal.

London Post Office Railway

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of selling the London Post Office Railway separate to other changes to the ownership structure of Royal Mail Holdings plc proposed in the Postal Services Bill. [36886]

Mr Davey: No decision has been take on the form or method of sale of Royal Mail. We are taking a staged approach—our first priority is passing the Postal Services Bill to allow the framework for action. The Government will then bring into force the new regulatory regime and take decisions on private sector investment.

Our decision will depend on market conditions, getting best value for the taxpayer and securing a sustainable future for Royal Mail.

Microfinance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of his Department's project budget has been spent on microfinance projects in the last three years for which figures are available. [36236]

Mr Prisk: Direct funding for community development finance institutions—CDFIs—(who often provide microfinance) has been provided by regional development agencies. RDAs report around £11 million per year was provided to CDFIs over the last three years. A large proportion of this will have supported microfinance activity. Microfinance and larger loans are also supported by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (and previously Small Firms Loan Guarantee). However, no information is available about the breakdown between microfinance and larger loans for these schemes. For this reason I cannot provide information on the proportion of the Department's budget which supports microfinance. Government also support microfinance through the Community Investment Tax Relief Scheme which encourages investment enterprises in disadvantaged communities and groups through CDFIs.

Office for Fair Access: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff he expects to be employed by the Office for Fair Access in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [36618]

Mr Willetts: We will be publishing a White Paper on higher education reforms during the early part of this year. As part of that we will consider if changes are needed in respect of the Office for Fair Access. We are working with its director to determine what level of resource will be required, including staffing, in future years.

Postal Services: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the potential effects on the universal service obligation in Livingston constituency of implementation of his proposals to privatise Royal Mail. [36879]

Mr Davey: The Government's policy, as set out in the Postal Services Bill, is that the minimum requirements for the universal postal service must include at least one delivery of letters to addresses or other identified points every Monday to Saturday.

Our overarching objective is to secure the future of the universal postal service and the Bill ensures that this will be Ofcom's primary duty in respect of mail. The nature of the ownership of the universal service provider will not change this.

Postal Services: Standards

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make representations to the Royal Mail on recent delays to the delivery of letters and parcels; and if he will estimate the number of letters and parcels held in postal delivery sorting offices for *(a)* longer than one month and *(b)* longer than three months in the latest period for which figures are available. [36772]

Mr Davey: Mail delivery is an operational matter for the Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the Royal Mail postal delivery backlogs affecting *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international post and their effects on small businesses. [36773]

Mr Davey: Mail delivery is an operational matter for the Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Growth Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to publish a shortlist of regional growth fund projects for consideration by the Independent Advisory Panel for each Government office region. [36618]

Mr Prisk: All bids will go before the independent Advisory Panel, there are no plans to publish a list of projects; however, the Department will publish data on the breakdown of bids to the fund.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the total value is of the bids received for the first round of the regional growth fund. [36619]

Mr Prisk: The fund has received over 450 bids with a value worth over £2 billion; the information contained on each bid is currently being processed, after which we will have the final figure. This information will be available during the week commencing 31 January 2011 and placed on the BIS website.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bids his Department has received for the first round of the regional growth fund in each Government office region. [36620]

Mr Prisk: The fund has received over 450 bids; the information contained on each bid is currently being processed. The requested information will be available during the week commencing 31 January 2011 and placed on the BIS website.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether unsuccessful bids for the first round of the regional growth fund will be considered for inclusion in future rounds. [36621]

Mr Prisk: Unsuccessful applicants will be given feedback on their bids, they will not automatically be considered for future rounds, but they will be able to re-submit their bid in future rounds.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of bids received for the first round of the regional growth fund were submitted by local enterprise partnerships solely. [36622]

Mr Prisk: The fund has received over 450 bids; the information contained on each bid is currently being processed. The requested information will be available during the week commencing 31 January 2011 and placed on the BIS website.

Regulatory Regime for Debt Recovery Companies

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to review the regulatory regime for debt recovery companies. [36484]

Mr Davey: The last Government consulted on this issue in 2009, and found that there were mixed views. There was a strong feeling that regulation of debt recovery companies should be looked at in the context of the personal insolvency regime as a whole. Our call for evidence "Managing Borrowing and Dealing with Debt" (published October 2010) invited comments on the personal insolvency framework, including debt management aspects. We have received a large number of responses which are currently being analysed and will be published in due course.

All who provide debt management services are required to be licensed under the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Last year the Office of Fair Trading reviewed compliance with its Debt Management Guidance and published a report on 28 September 2010. Subsequently they issued warnings to 129 debt management firms about non-compliant business practices. Of the 129 firms, 35 have indicated that they will surrender their licences, 79 have produced audited evidence confirming action taken to address areas of non-compliance and the OFT have initiated revocation action against a number of traders.

Students: Debts

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Council of Mortgage Lenders about the effects of student debt on likely levels of mortgage lending to graduates; and if he will make a statement. [36636]

Mr Willetts: The Council for Mortgage Lenders have advised that a student loan is very unlikely to materially impact on an individual's ability to get a mortgage. However the reduction in net income may result in a commensurate reduction in the amount a mortgage lender is willing to lend.

Our proposal to increase the repayment threshold from £15,000 to £21,000 will reduce the amount borrowers need to repay each month, and therefore increase the amount of net income available to them which could be helpful to them when applying for a mortgage.

UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the UN Special Representative on business and human rights. [36545]

Mr Davey: I met Professor John Ruggie, UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, on 10 January 2011 together with officials from within the Department. There have been no separate meetings between Professor John Ruggie and other BIS Ministers.

Unfair Dismissal

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future length of a period of continuous employment which qualifies entitlement to unfair dismissal rights. [36631]

Mr Davey: We are looking at a number of ways of helping businesses and protecting employees as part of our ongoing employment law review. As part of that review, the Government are considering changes to the length of a period of continuous employment which qualifies entitlement to unfair dismissal. We will make any announcements following on from that review in due course.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 31 January 2011

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of progress in reducing opium production in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [36868]

Alistair Burt: In its opium survey for 2010, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported stable levels of opium cultivation across the country, with the number of poppy-free provinces remaining at 20. Opium cultivation in Helmand fell by 7%. This follows two successive years of reductions in opium cultivation and a dramatic fall in the wheat price. Current indicators suggest that opium poppy cultivation will remain broadly stable again in 2011, despite continuing low wheat prices. The UNODC intends to release its next assessment in February/March.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representation he has received on the compatibility with the Rome Statute on forced population transfer of the proposed relocation of ethnic Kachin people in advance of the construction of the Myitsone dam, Kachin state, Burma. [36812]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have not received any such representations. However, we remain deeply concerned about the human rights and environmental impact of the construction of the Myitsone dam. We understand that construction of the dam will forcibly displace around 15,000 people. In addition, reports suggest the construction of the dam is causing flooding and water shortages, threatening the livelihoods of thousands of people. Our embassy in Rangoon is working with local groups to raise awareness of the situation and staff are scheduled to travel to the affected area shortly.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on attacks against the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army in Myawaddy, Karen state, Burma. [36815]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Fighting between troops and ethnic Karen rebels close to the Thai-Burma border has continued since November 2010 and resulted in thousands of Burmese refugees fleeing into Thailand. Regime attempts to force ethnic ceasefire groups to join a national Border Guard Force in addition to restrictive and deeply flawed elections in November, have further heightened tensions.

Our chargé d'affaires in Bangkok raised this issue with the Thai Foreign Minister on 19 January 2011 and with the Army commander and governor of the affected area of Thailand during a visit to Mae La refugee camp, in Mae Sot, on 17 January.

Burma: EU Action

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had at EU level on the future of targeted EU sanctions on Burma. [36786]

Mr Jeremy Browne: EU Foreign Ministers last discussed Burma at the November 2010 Foreign Affairs Council, attended by the Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Aylesbury (Mr Lidington). There was agreement on the need for caution in response to recent events, including flawed elections and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. Longstanding EU policy is that sanctions will only be eased in response to progress on the ground. Official level discussions on the annual renewal of the EU Council Decision on Burma have since begun in Brussels.

Burma: Foreign Investment

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the inward investment in Burma made via British Overseas Territories in each of the last three years. [36842]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The UK Government does not hold information on the amount or destination of outward foreign direct investment via the British Overseas Territories.

Ensuring that the Overseas Territories comply with relevant UK international obligations is a priority for the Government. This includes giving effect to international sanctions, including the EU's targeted restrictive measures against the Burmese regime. We have seen no evidence to date to suggest that there is direct investment in Burma via the Overseas Territories that is contrary to existing sanctions.

Diplomatic Service

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* ethnic minority background, *(b)* gender and *(c)* socio-economic background of (i) the HM ambassadors and (ii) other members of the Diplomatic Service. [36967]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) collects information about its staff in a number of different ways, which means that the level of detail available about the groups of staff mentioned in the question varies. The following response applies to all FCO staff, including Heads of Mission:

(a) ethnic minority background: No central records are kept recording the ethnic background of staff. Information about ethnicity can be recorded by staff themselves on the FCO's management information system, and in the annual staff survey. But since disclosure is optional in both cases, the available information is incomplete, and therefore not representative.

(b) gender: Information on the gender of the FCO's c.5,000 UK-based staff is recorded centrally. The gender breakdown among these staff is approximately 60% male and 40% female.

(c) socio-economic background: We do not collect information on the socio-economic background of staff.

The FCO aims to recruit a talented and diverse workforce that reflects the society we serve and our recruitment policies are designed to encourage applications from the widest possible range of backgrounds. All external recruitment into the FCO is based on merit, and all campaigns must be fair and open.

EU Delegations

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of UK civil servants who will be involved in running the EU delegations worldwide in 2011. [34659]

Mr Lidington: The UK currently has eight civil servants on secondment to EU delegations worldwide. In addition there are seven British heads of EU delegations, but they are permanent Commission officials, not British civil servants. The EU External Action Service (EAS) recruitment process is in the early stages. The majority of delegation heads are former European Commission and Council Secretariat staff.

There are a number of British staff in the senior management of the EAS including Cathy Ashton herself, James Morrison, her Chef de Cabinet, Robert Cooper, Political Counsellor, and Nick Westcott, Managing Director Africa.

Currently a number of UK civil servants are applying for positions in EU delegations, including as heads of delegation and deputy heads. Our long-term aim is for British representation in all EU institutions to be appropriate to the size of the UK's population.

Gaza

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on border crossing restrictions between Israel and the Gaza Strip. [36554]

Alistair Burt: I visited Israel and the Occupied Territories between 16 and 20 January 2011. I met General Dangot, co-ordinator of the Israeli Government activities in the occupied territories, and discussed the situation in Gaza in detail. I raised concerns over access for goods, including reconstruction materials, and also stressed the importance of increasing exports into Gaza.

Gulf States: Employment

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his counterparts in Gulf States on employment law and the position of trade unions in those countries. [36343]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with his counterparts in the Gulf states on these issues.

Iran: Sanctions

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UN sanctions in deterring Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [36918]

Alistair Burt: International sanctions, including those adopted by the UN and the EU, show the strength of international concerns about Iran's nuclear programme. We continue to monitor the progress of that programme closely. It is clear that sanctions are having an impact. Iran is finding it increasingly difficult to acquire access to goods of proliferation concern and is also finding it hard to access international finance. We believe these and other pressures brought Iran back into talks with the EU 3+3. But, its disappointing failure to engage on the substance of international concerns in Istanbul and its continuing defiance of Security Council Resolutions, of ofthe International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the international community more broadly mean that pressure will need to increase.

Israel: Business Initiatives

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage joint business initiatives between Israelis and Palestinians. [36556]

Alistair Burt: The UK provides financial support and technical advice to Palestinian businesses in both the west bank and Gaza to compete in new markets, develop new products and re-launch operations.

During my visit in mid-Jan 2011 to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, I raised with interlocutors the issue of exports from Gaza not only to an international market but also to Israel and the west bank. I emphasised the importance of making this happen. Prime Minister Fayyad responded that he had received some positive signals from the Israelis on exports and increased capacity at the crossings.

Kashmir

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to India on respect for human rights in Kashmir. [37133]

Alistair Burt: Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss the situation in Kashmir, including human rights, with the Indian and Pakistani Governments and with our contacts in Indian and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The UK continues to call for an improvement in the human rights situation on both sides of the Line of Control and for an end to external support for violence in Kashmir. To this end the UK funds human rights, conflict prevention and peace building efforts on both sides of the Line of Control, including efforts to help build confidence and create a constituency for peace.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of Indian actions in Kashmir; and if he will make a statement. [37134]

Alistair Burt: We have been following closely the initiative of the Indian Government to appoint three interlocutors to take forward a dialogue between Delhi and Srinagar to help resolve the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir. Prime Minister Singh issued a statement last summer that violations of human rights abuses by security forces in Kashmir would not be tolerated. Officials in our high commissions in Islamabad and New Delhi regularly discuss the situation in Kashmir with the Indian and Pakistani Governments and with our contacts in Indian and Pakistani-administered Kashmir. It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution in Kashmir but we continue to encourage a lasting resolution which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. This includes calling for an end to all external support for violence in Kashmir and an improvement in the human rights on both sides of the Line of Control.

Kurds: Languages

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Turkish Government on *(a)* the use of the Kurdish language for teaching in schools and *(b)* the recent trials of Kurdish community leaders. [36461]

Mr Lidington: The Government have not made specific representations to the Government of Turkey on these issues. Our embassy in Ankara regularly raises the treatment of Kurds in Turkey with the Turkish Government as part of its wider discussions on human rights and encourages them to make progress on respect for minority groups, including the protection of language.

Our embassy in Ankara is monitoring the trials of Kurdish community leaders closely, and we expect high judicial standards to be observed throughout.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the Arab League on the peace process. [36555]

Alistair Burt: I spoke with the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Amr Moussa on 26 January 2011. I raised my concerns over the current impasse and we discussed opportunities for making progress on the peace process. I was also in Jordan on 20 January 2011 and met with Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh and we discussed how to best secure a return to talks.

Palestine: Peace Negotiations

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Palestinian Authority on the resumption of peace negotiations. [36485]

Alistair Burt: I visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) between 16 and 20 January 2011. During my visit to the OPTs, I held meetings with President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad. We discussed a number of issues, including steps to resume peace talks. I made clear the UK position that negotiations were the best way of achieving the goal of a sovereign and viable Palestinian state alongside a secure Israel.

Salman Taseer

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the death of Salman Taseer; and if he will make a statement. [36336]

Alistair Burt: The assassination of Governor Taseer in Islamabad on 4 January 2011 was shocking. The Foreign Secretary made a statement condemning the action, and reinforced the UK's commitment to working with Pakistan to support democratic stability and religious tolerance. The Foreign Secretary has also written to President Zardari to express his condolences. Following the assassination I have spoken to the Pakistan Minister for Minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, to express the UK's support for a democratic Pakistan, and the importance of ensuring that the rights and freedoms of all Pakistanis are upheld.

Senior Civil Servants

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* non-contractual payments were made to each senior civil servant who has left his Department since May 2010. [34680]

Alistair Burt: Under the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA), it is not possible to disclose the names or positions of each individual staff member as it would breach the fair processing principle. The individual to whom the personal data relate has a reasonable expectation that the Department would hold that information in confidence.

However I can inform the hon. Member that since May 2010 the following number of senior civil servants have left the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO):

three staff resigned and there were no payments made;

one officer transferred to another Government Department, no payment was made;

six officers took normal age retirement and had immediate access to the pension benefits they had accrued during their service;

one officer departed at the end of their fixed-term contract, due to their role becoming redundant, with a payment calculated in accordance with the formula used for flexible early severance payments under the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS);

two officers left at the end of their fixed-term contracts, no payments were made;

three staff left the office after a loan period to the FCO from another Government Department, no payments were made;

12 staff took voluntary early departure, all payments to these officers were calculated and paid in strict accordance with the prevailing rules of the CSCS. The total resource cost to the FCO of these exits was £2.8 million.

Resource costs are the total costs to the FCO as employer and include the annual compensation payment (for early retirees) until their 60th birthday and other capitalised costs at departure. These capitalised costs are:

(i) the total chargeable part of the lump sum;

(ii) the enhanced pension cost adjustment; and

(iii) the accrued lump sum cost adjustment.

Shaker Aamer

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken with the US Administration to reach an agreed timetable for Shaker Aamer to be brought to trial or returned to the UK. [37215]

Alistair Burt: On 6 July 2010 the Prime Minister confirmed to Parliament that we will continue to request the release and return to the UK of Shaker Aamer. We have reiterated this request to the US Government on numerous occasions. Most recently the Foreign Secretary raised Mr Aamer's case with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 17 November 2010, and following this the Deputy Prime Minister raised Mr Aamer's case when he met Secretary Clinton at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Summit in Kazakhstan, on 1 December 2010. Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are continuing discussions with their US counterparts on this issue.

The outcome of these discussions remains uncertain. Any decision regarding Mr Aamer's release remains in the hands of the United States Government.

Sri Lanka: Prisoners

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of reports of deaths among Tamil prisoners detained in Anuradhapura prison, Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [36862]

Alistair Burt: We were concerned to hear about the recent prison riots, which led to the death of one Sinhalese prisoner and the injury of other prisoners. There is no suggestion that the riots were ethnically driven. We understand that the Sri Lankan authorities are looking into the causes of the riots. Our high commission has discussed the need to expedite the hearing of cases and overcrowded prison conditions with the Sri Lankan Government.

Treaty of Nice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice the then Minister for Europe received on the legal effect of Declaration 6 of the Treaty of Nice prior to the Treaty's signature on 26 February 2001; and if he will make a statement. [33745]

Mr Lidington: As has been the case with successive Administrations, policy and legal advice from officials is not normally disclosed.

Western Wall in Jerusalem

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the publication of a research paper by the Palestinian Authority on the origins of the Western Wall in Jerusalem; whether he has had discussions with the Palestinian Authority on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [36702]

Alistair Burt: Our consulate general in Jerusalem is aware of the report. There have been no discussions with the Palestinian Authority and there are no plans to issue a statement.

The publication was removed from the Ministry of Information's website.

We call for both the Palestinians and Israelis to refrain from provocative actions that may prejudice the outcome of a final settlement.

The Government's position is clear. Our goal is a secure and universally recognised Israel living alongside a sovereign and viable Palestinian state, based on the borders of 1967, with Jerusalem the future capital of both states, and a fair settlement for refugees.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Attorney-General (1) what regulations the Law Officers' Departments have introduced since 6 May 2010; [37368]

(2) what regulations the Law Officers' Departments have removed since 6 May 2010. [37407]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers' Departments have not introduced or removed any regulations since 6 May 2010.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, what single tender contracts the House of Commons Service has awarded since May 2010; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36188]

John Thurso: The House's central contract database contains information on six single tender contracts awarded since May 2010, namely:

Additional access control

Supply, delivery and installation of security screening equipment

Anti-fragmentation film in 14 Tothill street

Modifications to the House of Commons Chamber sound equipment and supply of specialist radio microphones

Supply of curtaining fabric

Replacement of broken glass roof domes, Moncrieff's Restaurant

None of these contracts was above the EU public procurement threshold for supplies and services which currently stands at approximately £101,000.

Single tender contracts under £25,000 within individual House Departments are not recorded on the central contract database, and it is not known how many of these there have been.

SCOTLAND

Aptuit

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will meet *(a)* management and *(b)* employees of Aptuit to discuss that company's proposal to close its sites at Livingston and Riccarton. [36673]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office carefully considers all requests for meetings.

Barnett Formula

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on any possible review of the Barnett formula; and if he will make a statement. [37551]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of issues. The UK Government recognise that concerns have been expressed about the current system of devolution funding whereby changes to the block grant are calculated by the Barnett formula, but the UK Government's priority is to reduce the deficit and they do not have any plans to change arrangements before the stabilisation of the public finances.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36613]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has introduced more intensive monitoring of its carbon emissions and has engaged in a staff awareness raising campaign. When undertaking repairs and maintenance the Office considers the opportunity to take any additional cost-effective actions that will reduce carbon emissions.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37658]

David Mundell: No librarians have been employed by the Scotland Office since 2000.

Higher Education: Finance

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the Barnett consequentials of the Government's planned changes in spending on higher education. [36882]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State and I are in regular contact with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on matters important to Scotland. The Scottish Government's budget is calculated using the Barnett formula which allocates population based shares of changes to spending on devolved matters, such as higher education. The Scottish budget announced at the spending review therefore included the population based share of the higher education resource budget reductions. It is for the Scottish Government to determine how they allocate their overall budget according to their policy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36612]

Mr Paterson: The Northern Ireland Office monitors its carbon emissions on a regular basis and the figures are published on a yearly basis.

Steps my Department has taken include reducing the need for travel between London and Belfast by increasing the use of video conferencing facilities, replacing the routine use of an executive jet by budget and commercial airlines for ministerial and official flights, introducing a bio-mass heating system and new solar panels and improving insulation at Hillsborough Castle, introducing recycling, and ceasing use of bottled water across our estate.

Officials are working closely with the Efficiency and Reform Group to ensure the Department meets its target by June 2011.

WALES

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36615]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Stafford (Jeremy Lefroy) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 436W.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians her Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37660]

Mr David Jones: None.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Employment

Mr Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what the policy of the Church Commissioners is on the payment by Church of England parishes of a living wage to their employees. [37287]

Tony Baldry: Clergy are not employees but office holders and they therefore receive a stipend rather than a wage. However, the national average incumbent's stipend plus the estimated value of a provided house (totalling about £32,210 in 2010) is comparable to the average national wage.

The Church is keen for stipends to be adequate to enable clergy to perform their ministries without undue financial anxiety, flexible enough to aid clergy deployment and consistent enough to avoid impeding their mobility. Average earnings growth estimates are taken into consideration when setting stipends levels. From 31 January 2011 the national minimum stipend, below which no full-time clergy should be paid, will become compulsory under the terms of service legislation which comes into effect on that day. From April this will be £21,370 although in practice the stipends of most clergy already exceed this amount.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects tender documents to be issued in respect of the four high-speed broadband pilot areas identified to date. [37285]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is working closely with the local procuring authorities on the timetable for commencing the pilot procurements. No dates are fixed at this time, but will be made public at the earliest opportunity.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36600]

John Penrose: The Department has taken the following steps to ensure that the target of reducing carbon emissions by 10% will be met:

Reduced running times of air conditioning units
Improved management of lighting
Improved sequencing of the boiler and chiller
Reduced cooling in the data centre
Reduced the number of physical IT servers in the data centre.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects Ofcom to publish the initial obligations code under the Digital Economy Act 2010. [37284]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: No specific publication date has been confirmed as yet, but I expect Ofcom to publish this draft code in early 2011.

English Tourist Board

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding VisitEngland has allocated to promoting each English region in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [36532]

John Penrose: This information is not held in the manner requested by either this Department or VisitEngland.

VisitEngland's expenditure benefits all English regions, but is not subject to specific allocations. The regional development agencies (RDA) have had strategic responsibility for tourism in the regions since 2003, including regional tourism investment. The following table sets out the funding that each RDA has allocated to support tourism over the last three years. These figures are based on estimates provided by the RDAs to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

			£ million
RDA	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
AWM	3.3	1.0	1.0
EEDA	1.8	1.0	1.0
EMDA	4.7	4.0	2.0
LDA	29.4	20.0	21.0
NWDA	8.9	14.0	13.0
ONE	10.6	7.0	6.0
SEEDA	2.2	2.0	2.0
SWRDA	2.6	3.0	2.0
YF	6.0	8.0	8.0
Total	69.5	60.0	56.0

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are provisional—awaiting final confirmation from BIS.

Internet

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that the internet market grows in a way that encourages free and fair access to the internet for *(a)* business and *(b)* personnel use. [36948]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are absolutely committed to ensuring that the internet remains the powerful innovative, competitive and open force for good that it has become since its inception. The internet has brought huge economic and social benefits across the world, and that must continue.

The internet has developed at an unbelievable pace and in directions which have proved almost impossible to predict. It does not seem wise to introduce legislation to dictate how the internet may or may not evolve. It has done exceedingly well without our intervention up until now, so until it develops in a way which somehow hurts consumer interests or competition or impedes innovation, it is best if we allow the market to continue to self-regulate.

Ofcom will closely monitor how the market develops and if it develops in an anti-competitive way, they have the appropriate powers to intervene.

Licensing

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what timetable he has set for his consultation on changes to Schedule 1 to the Licensing Act 2003; and if he will publish a timetable for consultation on changes to the Licensing Act 2003. [36350]

John Penrose: The Government are currently considering options to remove red tape from live music and other entertainment. I hope to be able to announce our conclusions, including the timetable for reform, shortly.

Public Libraries

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he plans to take steps to prevent the sale of valuable historical reference books by local authority libraries. [37398]

Mr Vaizey: Local authorities have the freedom to determine the manner in which the 'comprehensive and efficient' library service they are required to provide under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 is managed and delivered. This includes decisions about stock retention and disposal.

Public Libraries: Voluntary Work

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with local authorities on the use of volunteers to replace librarians. [36771]

Mr Vaizey: This week I was given an update on the Future Libraries Programme (FLP) which included presentations from three of the authorities that are participating. A number of FLP pilot projects are exploring new models for library delivery—including greater involvement of volunteers. I also hosted a roundtable on the theme of 'libraries and the big society'. A number of local and national government officials and civil sector partners attended the event which explored how libraries can help to achieve the big society vision.

Tourism

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to visit the North East to meet representatives of businesses and business associations from the tourism industry. [36533]

John Penrose: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaydon (Mr Anderson) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 468W.

Tourism: One North East

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the closure of One North East on the tourism industry in the North East. [36530]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not made an assessment of the impact on tourism from the closure of the regional development agencies, but of course we recognise that One North East has supported the visitor economy in the North East in the past.

DCMS is currently working closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government to ensure that the interests of tourism are addressed during the transition from the RDAs to the new Local Enterprise Partnerships and Destination Management Organisation framework.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport which bodies will be responsible for promoting tourism in the North East following the closure of One North East. [36531]

John Penrose: Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs), with strong private sector leadership, will become the cornerstone of successful tourism promotion. Many DMOs already exist in the North East, and two LEPs have recently been announced as well. These are Tees Valley and one covering County Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland which was approved in January.

In addition, VisitEngland will focus on investment in and support for destination management organisations and the local businesses involved in tourism, and have established a transition team to assist in the move to the new Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding One North East allocated to supporting tourism in the North East in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [36534]

John Penrose: The funding that One North East allocated to support tourism over the last five years is set out in the following table.

These figures are based on estimates provided by the regional development agencies to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

£ million

RDA	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
One NorthEast	7.1	10.8	10.6	7.0	6.0

[1] Figures for 2009-10 are provisional—awaiting final confirmation from BIS.

DEFENCE

Trauma Care

18. **Nick de Bois:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the standard of trauma care provided to members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [36753]

22. **Andrew Bridgen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the level of trauma care provided to serving and former members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [36757]

Mr Robathan: Assessments in 2009 and 2010 by the National Audit Office, the Public Accounts Committee and the Healthcare Commission have all agreed that the standard of trauma care provided for injured personnel on operations is extremely high. To give just one example, the NAO in its February 2010 report on "Treating Illness and Injury Arising on Military Operations" stated that

> "Clinical treatment and rehabilitation of service personnel seriously injured on military operations are highly effective".

In order to ensure our armed forces benefit from cutting edge research into trauma care, we have very recently established, with the Department of Health and other partner organisations, a new Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology Research centre at the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

19. **Andrea Leadsom:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of Iran's potential nuclear weapons capability; and if he will make a statement. [36754]

Dr Fox: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave today to my hon. Friend the Member for Watford (Richard Harrington).

Defence Industrial Capacity

20. **Mr Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future UK defence industrial capacity; and if he will make a statement. [36755]

21. **Diana Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future UK defence industrial capacity; and if he will make a statement. [36756]

Peter Luff: The Government are currently undertaking a formal consultation on "Equipment, Support and Technology for UK Defence and Security" following publication of a Green Paper in December last year. The consultation continues until the end of March, and we will be publishing a White Paper later in the year.

Armed Forces Personnel: Remuneration

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the pay of armed forces personnel engaged in the location and disposal of improvised explosive devices; and if he will make a statement. [36739]

Mr Robathan: I first pay tribute to this very special group of people, some of whom have given their lives in this vital work to save others. There have been no representations received on the pay of armed forces personnel engaged in the location and disposal of improvised explosive devices.

Postal Ballots

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on steps to ensure that postal ballots for members of the armed forces deployed abroad and their dependants can be issued and returned in time for each election and for the referendum scheduled to take place in 2011. [36758]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence, including the British Forces Post Office, are working with the Cabinet Office, the Electoral Commission and Royal Mail to make suitable provisions for service personnel in Afghanistan. As happened for last year's general election, this will include fast tracking the delivery and return of postal voting forms. Personnel will still have the option of voting by proxy. For other overseas locations, BFPO will as before aim to identify and fast track ballot papers where they can.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times each TriStar that has operated in the Afghan theatre has been repaired since January 2010. [34963]

Peter Luff: For TriStar, the engineering unserviceability database does not give the aircraft location or the task planned/undertaken by the aircraft. It would incur disproportionate cost to compare the flight departure logs which give this information against the engineering unserviceability database. I am able to confirm, however, that in 2010 there were 99 instances where short term TriStar unserviceability caused a delay to an Operation Herrick task departing RAF Brize Norton at the start of an Airbridge flight. In many cases, engineers were able to quickly rectify the unserviceability, or to minimise the overall delay another airframe was substituted to undertake the task.

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will investigate the circumstances in which the then Chief of the General Staff informed HM Ambassador to Afghanistan in 2007 of the reasons for the redeployment of troops from Iraq to Afghanistan. [35248]

Dr Fox: No.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with armed forces charities as part of the development of the health for heroes scheme. [36541]

Mr Robathan: "Health for heroes" is an informal tag that has recently been applied by the press to the medical care provided for the armed forces and ex-service personnel, with a particular emphasis on mental health care. To enhance the range of high-quality mental health services already provided for both current personnel and veterans, the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Health are currently working closely together to implement the recommendations of the report 'Fighting Fit' by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison). In doing so, we have had valuable discussions with a range of armed forces charities, including Combat Stress and the Royal British Legion, to help ensure that the services being introduced are targeted in the most useful and appropriate way.

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Deputy Prime Minister on the proposed health for heroes scheme. [36366]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* The Deputy Prime Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr Clegg) was referring to the wide range of current and planned initiatives across Government to support serving and former members of the armed forces, such as the 'Fighting Fit' review by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) and our enhancements to health care services as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The term "Health for heroes" has recently been applied by the press to the medical care provided for the armed forces and ex-service personnel, with a particular emphasis on mental health care.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress he has made on implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) that a member of the armed forces whose requirement for a specialist opinion is identified at the time of discharge should be able to obtain it and any follow-on treatment on a military department of community mental health for the next six months; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15; [36573]

(2) what recent progress he has made in implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire that a mental health systems enquiry is built into routine service examinations, discharge medicals and the medical examinations conducted prior to invalidity discharge from the service on the grounds of physical or mental incapacity; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15. [36574]

Mr Robathan: The recommendations of the report 'Fighting Fit' by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) have been accepted by the Government in full and will result in many improvements to mental health services to both current personnel and veterans. We are now working with the Department of Health to implement these recommendations to provide better and wider mental health support.

In April 2011, we will start a three-month trial of the processes for introducing enhanced mental health surveillance during routine medicals. Once this has been completed, we will evaluate the outcome and consider any possible improvements. The requirements will be introduced into discharge protocols, including those for seriously-injured personnel. Arrangements to ensure follow-on treatment, including enabling access to military Departments of Community Mental Health for up to six months following discharge, should be in place and operational by late summer 2011.

Work on assessing any future costs and resource requirements for implementing the recommendations is currently under way and will be assessed as part of the Ministry of Defence's planning process, but it is not possible to give any financial data at this time.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress he has made on implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) that his Department should encourage research to develop a post-traumatic stress disorder screening tool; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15. [36575]

Mr Robathan: The King's Centre for Military Health Research has secured funding of £1.6 million for research aimed at identifying a possible screening tool for mental health problems in members of the UK armed forces. The research is expected to take around three years to carry out, including 12 months' preparation time followed by 24 months' data gathering and analysis.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on armed forces pensions of proposed changes to indexation arrangements for public sector pensions. [36747]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East (Gregg McClymont).

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* logistics and *(b)* engineering vehicles of each type were (i) in service and (ii) available for operations on the latest date for which figures are available. [35892]

Peter Luff: I am withholding the information on the number of vehicles available on operations for operational security reasons.

The Department holds a huge variety of logistics and engineering vehicles. For ease these have been grouped by role and category. The overall number of vehicles in service within each category is shown in the following table.

Role	*Total number in service*
Engineering	
Armoured Engineering	66
Bridging	177
Bulldozer	50
Dumper Truck	190
Excavator	422
Forklift	21
Route Engineer Plant	84
Beach T/WAY Dispenser	2
Logistics	
Bulk Fuel	1,189
Cargo	12,446
Container Handler	23
Crane	92
Equipment Transporter	732
Forklift	649
Medical	915
Recovery	466
Bulk Water	57
Airfield Support	631
Fire Vehicles	162

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many variants of each vehicle in the Future Rapid Effect System family he plans to purchase; and what estimate he has made of the cost of each variant type. [36080]

Peter Luff: Decisions on platform numbers, including numbers and variants of the specialist vehicle and utility vehicle programmes, will be made at their respective main investment decision points. The Ministry of Defence does not publish the costs of the programmes before these points. To do otherwise would prejudice commercial interests.

Defence Equipment

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equipment failure reports were filed in each year since 2003; and how many such reports were filed for each armoured vehicle type in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [36075]

Peter Luff: The Equipment Failure Report is unique to the Army and is the primary means by which users record the failure of any item of equipment fitted to land vehicles. As reported by users, the number of equipment failure reports filed in each year since 2003 are shown in the following table.

Vehicle type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
AS90	408	238	185	103	56	136	130	98	1354
Challenger 2	2,467	1,737	1,629	1,369	1,148	1,523	1,477	1,162	12,512
CRARRV	141	324	263	207	144	129	130	109	1447
CVR(T)	445	252	194	372	304	662	485	461	3175
Fuchs	14	7	16	9	2	0	0	0	48
FV430 (Bulldog)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	165	464	148	144	921
FV430 (Mk2)	447	480	363	325	289	186	255	155	2,500
Saxon	45	66	21	10	4	2	0	0	148
Titan	n/a	n/a	n/a	183	418	346	166	397	1,510
Trojan	n/a	n/a	n/a	131	677	521	640	392	2,361
Warrior	590	668	576	899	603	719	494	486	5,035
Mastiff	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	163	336	295	310	1,168
Panther	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	124	598	282	1,004
Ridgback	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	71	122	193
Snatch (all variants)	50	225	461	441	120	21	20	53	1,391
Vector	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	56	155	52	4	267
Viking	n/a	72	59	44	128	46	14	71	434
Wolfhound	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	41	44
Husky	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91	292	383
Total	4,607	4,069	3,767	4,093	4,341	5,370	5,069	4,579	—

The data include accidental damage, maintenance related failures and breakdowns, or the failure of an item fitted to the vehicle. The equipment failure reporting system do not reflect the results of subsequent investigations or the severity of a failure. Given this, the data do not differentiate between what might later prove to have been a problem caused by operator error or damage sustained as a result of operations, or whether the failure had any impact on operational capability or safety.

Defence Vetting Agency

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 21W, on the Defence Vetting Agency: Foreign and Commonwealth Office; when he plans to make an announcement on the future provision of vetting services for his Department and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [37306]

Mr Robathan: It is the intention to resolve this issue as soon as practicable, but I am not in a position to give a time scale for completion of the work.

Defence: Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the project history for the Typhoon project; and if he will assess the compliance of this project with his Department's guidance in Maintaining a Project History version 4.0, August 2007. [36376]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* A copy of the project history maintained in respect of the Typhoon project will be placed in the Library of the House following a review to identify whether any information needs to be withheld. The Ministry of Defence document 'Maintaining a Project History v4.0' dated August 2007, provides guidance relating to project histories. The Typhoon project history records entries as recommended by that document.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what options for improving procurement processes his Department identified from the Shrivenham Acquisition Workshop. [37290]

Peter Luff: The 5th Shrivenham Acquisition Workshop, which I attended, brought together senior decision makers from Government and Industry in November last year.

The following themes were addressed through workshops: Attacking acquisition costs in non-equipment areas; Achieving long term value across industry sectors; Affordable and sustainable operational capability; Maximising returns on Research and Technology investment across defence and security; and Exports and sovereignty. Each of these workshops made a number of detailed recommendations for proposed actions. The principal options for improving procurement processes fall within the themes of long-term value, sustainable capability, and exportability.

These recommendations are being taken forward by the National Defence Industries Council, a joint forum between the MOD and industry and I will be following that work carefully.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36605]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to the aspiration that this should be the greenest Government ever, and is on track to meet the 10% reduction commitment on the civil office estate by May 2011.

The technical and behavioural changes being undertaken to meet the 10% reduction include: boiler optimisation; adjusting heating times to reflect building occupancy; minimum/maximum temperature mandates; weekend and holiday shutdowns; IT and electrical equipment reductions and rationalisation; staff engagement and behavioural campaigns.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35783]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to using plain English in day-to-day business, and is a corporate life member of the Plain English Campaign. This commitment is reflected in the Defence Writing Guide (Joint Service Publication 101), which sets out the good practice that should be followed when producing written material throughout the MOD and the three services. The latest version was published in June 2010. As well as the Joint Service Publication, there are also three e-learning courses available for staff to undertake.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on consultancy by his Department since May 2010. [36955]

Mr Robathan: The total spend for consultants for the period 1 May to 30 November 2010 for the Ministry of Defence (including its agencies and trading funds) is £15.75 million.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what single tender contracts his Department has awarded since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36181]

Peter Luff: Over the period from 12 May 2010-31 December 2010, a total of 1,401 Ministry of Defence contracts started which exceeded the EU public procurement threshold of £40,000, to a total contract value of up to £3.8 billion. Of these, 804 had been let non-competitively, with a total value of up to £0.9 billion. Figures are not yet available for January 2011.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff are employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department; and what their job titles are. [36957]

Mr Robathan: The number of staff on fixed term contracts in the Ministry of Defence as at 27 January 2011, broken down by job family and job code are as follows:

Job family	*Job code*	*Total*
Business Management and Improvement	Business Management	18
	Consultancy	—
Commercial	Commercial Operations	—
	Commercial Policy	—

Job family	*Job code*	*Total*
Communications and Media	Media and Press	—
	Design and Imagery	—
	Strategic Communications	—
Corporate Support	Administrative Support	50
	Community Service	8
	Secretariat and Private Office	—
	Secretarial	—
	Direct Military Support	—
	Community Development Work	—
	Statistics	—
	Statistical Analysis	—
	Occupational Psychology	—
Defence Intelligence	Intelligence Analysis	—
	Mapping and Charting	—
Defence Policy and Commitments	Defence Policy and Commitments	—
Engineering and Science	Government Quality Assurance	—
	Technical (Trades)	24
	Civilian Apprentices	161
	Science and Technology Management	—
	Science and Technology Policy	—
	Operational Analysis	6
	Acoustics	—
	Chemical/Biological Science and Technology	—
Estates	Estate Advice	—
	Estate Management	—
	Soft Facilities Management	105
	Site Estate	—
	Estate Planning	—
	Range Management	—
Finance	Decision Support	—
	Transaction Processing	—
Health Professionals	General Practice	10
	Care Home Support	—
	Physiotherapy	7
	Nursing and Midwifery	6
	Hospital Doctor/ Consultant	—
	Medical Technical	—
	Occupational Therapy	—
	Clinical Psychology	—
	Pharmacy	—
	Dietetics	—
Human Resources	Civilian HR Expert	—
	Civilian HR Service Provider	19
	HR Leader	—
	Service HR Expert	—
Information	Information Service Provision	—
	Information Strategy and Planning	—
Legal	Legal	8
Logistics	Storekeeping/ Warehouse Operations	28
	Driving	41
	Supply Chain Management and Policy	—
	Transport/Movement	—
	Logistics	—
Programme and Project Management	Project Management	9
	Senior Ownership	—
	Programme Management	—
Security, Health and Safety	Safety, Health, Environment and Fire	—
	General Policing (MDP)	—
	Customs and Immigration	7
	MGS Unarmed Guarding	11
	Sovereign Base Area Policing	—
	Case Assessment	8
Training and Education	Teaching	257
	Teaching Leadership	—
	Training Support	15
	Specialist Instruction	15
	Teaching Support	—
Not Recorded	Not Recorded	—
Total		906

'—' = Denotes a number lower than 5

Source:
PPPA

In all instances fixed term appointments are used to reflect the finite nature of the requirement and include casual appointments as well as longer fixed terms.

Details of special adviser appointments, including names and salaries, are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/special-adviser-data-releases

Recruitment to the civil service is regulated by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010. The Act established the Civil Service Commission with the role of regulating recruitment to the civil service, principally through their recruitment principles. All recruitment to the Department has been in accordance with these recruitment principles. The recruitment principles are available at:

www.civilservicecommission.org.uk

There has been a freeze on external recruitment to the MOD since May 2010, other than for business critical posts, such as those in direct support of operations, apprenticeships, fast stream and specialist graduates and posts paid for in full by other parties (for example United States visiting forces and NATO support facilities).

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to ascertain the health needs of British nationals resident overseas who participated in nuclear weapons tests held by the UK Government in the 1950s. [36792]

Mr Robathan: Meeting the needs of the health service requirements of UK nationals who reside overseas lies with the country in which they reside. However, where a former member of the armed forces is in receipt of a war pension the Ministry of Defence may meet the cost of treatment in some cases, provided that the treatment is clinically necessary for a disablement due to service and is not available through the health system in the country of residence.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will arrange tests to be carried out on surviving nuclear test veterans to establish whether any increased level of radiation in their bodies is attributable to participation in such tests. [36794]

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will offer all surviving veterans exposed to radiation during the nuclear weapons tests held by the UK Government in the 1950s a medical examination to assess any effects on their health resulting from this exposure. [36881]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 747W, to the hon. Member for East Lothian (Fiona O'Donnell).

Members: Correspondence

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Warley of 25 November 2010, sent on behalf of Mr Chester. [36361]

Mr Robathan: I replied to the right hon. Member's letter on 25 January 2011.

Nimrod Aircraft

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the Nimrod MRA4 project has been in each *(a)* year and *(b)* phase since its inception. [36585]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: The cost of the Nimrod MRA4 project in each year and phase is contained in the following table:

£ million

Financial year	*Assessment phase*	*Demonstration and manufacturing phase*	*Support phase*	*Total*
Pre 1996-97[1]	5	—	—	5
1996-97	—	72	—	72
1997-98	—	78	—	78
1998-99[2]	—	451	—	451
1999-2000	—	192	—	192
2000-01	—	307	—	307
2001-02[3]	—	58	—	58
2002-03	—	251	—	251
2003-04	—	438	6	444
2004-05	—	409	5	414
2005-06	—	141	163	304
2006-07	—	346	34	380
2007-08	—	264	44	308
2008-09	—	190	88	278
2009-10	—	166	144	310
2010-11[4]	—	59	28	87
Total	5	3,422	512	3,939

[1] Total cost of the assessment phase as at 31 March 1996. Earlier data are no longer available.

[2] Accruals accounting introduced to MOD accounts.

[3] The variance between 2001-02 and 2002-03 in part reflects an accruals adjustment.

[4] As at 31 December 2010.

Reserve Forces

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what post-tour support services are available to reserve forces personnel on their return from military operations. [36564]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence ensures that a full range of support is provided for reserve forces personnel following deployment. Members of the reserve forces and their families receive the same type of support and welfare packages that are provided for Regular personnel following overseas deployment. This support may include access to defence medical services, facilities and health care, and a range of welfare and financial assistance.

In addition, primary and secondary legislation provides legal protection and safeguards for both reservists and employers.

Type 22 Frigates

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the remaining Type 22 frigates following their decommissioning. [36808]

Peter Luff: The four Type 22 frigates (HM Ships Chatham, Campbeltown, Cumberland, and Cornwall) will progressively leave service by the end of April 2011. It is too early to say what the disposal plans will be but in accordance with the Ministry of Defence's policy for disposing of such surplus defence equipment, we are first looking at the feasibility of selling to other Governments for continued military use. Should this not prove viable, we would then explore other options.

Type 26 Frigates

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the unit cost target for the Type 26 frigate is. [36809]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 377W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels: Food Supply

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the sustainability criteria for biomass take into account areas of food production displaced by biomass cultivation. [37275]

Gregory Barker: The sustainability criteria take account of direct land use change such as the use of previously uncultivated land to grow energy crops.

Indirect changes affecting food production are also possible, for example, where using food grade crops for energy can result in demand for new cropland elsewhere. The European Commission is due to advise in July on addressing indirect land use change for biofuels, and we will consider the application of this advice to bio-energy feedstocks more generally.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: Compensation

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many chronic obstructive pulmonary disease compensation claims have been reviewed in full by Capita on behalf of his Department following the discovery of an undervaluation of less than *(a)* £200, *(b)* £100 and *(c)* £50 having been made in an offer to a claimant; [37050]

(2) how many chronic obstructive pulmonary disease compensation claims have been reviewed in full by Capita on behalf of his Department following the discovery of new evidence relevant to the claim; [37051]

(3) how many chronic obstructive pulmonary disease compensation claims have been reviewed in full by Capita on behalf of his Department after making an offer to a claimant but before receiving a formal acceptance or rejection of the offer; [37052]

(4) if he will estimate the average cost to the public purse of reviewing a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease compensation claim in full. [37053]

Charles Hendry: The framework of the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims handling agreements allowed for reviews of a claim to take place at a number of stages prior to acceptance of the offer subject to certain deadlines and claims could be reviewed for many different reasons. However, no statistics were maintained of the type and number of such reviews undertaken. As a result it is not possible to estimate the cost of such reviews.

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* highest and *(c)* average award under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease compensation claim scheme. [37054]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the lowest, highest and average compensation awarded to former miners and their families under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease scheme for claims settled by payment, denied and withdrawn as at 23 January 2011.

	Total COPD claims received	*Lowest damages (£)*	*Highest Damages (£)*	*Average damages (£)*
Total	591,768	0.22	374,630.52	5,360

Of the 591,768 claims made by the deadline to register a claim in March 2004, 454,686 have been settled by payment (as at 31 December 2010) and the average award of this cohort was £5,360.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since its creation. [37646]

Gregory Barker: The Department for Energy and Climate change has not employed a certified or chartered librarian since its creation.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37243]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change spent nothing on Department-branded drinks coasters in the financial year 2009-10.

Electricity Generation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 3.3.14 of the Revised Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* doubling and *(b)* tripling the total installed capacity for electricity generation envisaged as being required by 2050. [37277]

Charles Hendry: In July the Department published the 2050 Pathways report, which as well as presenting the assumptions lying behind the 2050 Calculator, calculated high-level costs in the large scale power generation sector for six illustrative pathways. The analysis set out cost figures for the physical capital; fixed and variable operating costs; fuel; nuclear decommissioning and waste; and infrastructure (such as the electricity transmission and distribution network). It does not consider the cost of financing, carbon, electricity imports, research and development, behavioural change or wider macro-economic impacts. Each of these pathways showed a marked increase in electricity demand, up to a doubling in some cases.

Compared with a 'no effort' pathway, average annual undiscounted fuel costs are £5 billion to £12 billion lower in low carbon generation pathways over the period to 2050, while average annual capital costs for the same period are £7 billion to £17 billion per year higher. The relative costs of the high and low carbon pathways were heavily dependent on the assumptions made about technology costs and fossil fuel prices.

As promised in the July publication, the Department is continuing to explore this area in further detail, and will publish an updated version of the Calculator including costs data later this year. Respondents to our Call for Evidence in October indicated strong public support for this course of action.

Further detailed analysis looking at the cost of electricity generation in the short- and medium-term is being carried out in conjunction with the electricity market reform project, which is to report later in the year.

Energy: Prices

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the number of people diagnosed with cancer who are experiencing difficulties in paying their energy bills; whether he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take steps to assist such persons; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [36717]

Gregory Barker: The Department holds information on the total number of fuel poor who are long term sick or disabled. This information is not broken down by specific medical condition.

The Department continues to engage closely with interested parties on the issue of fuel poverty, most recently in relation to persons diagnosed with a terminal illness. The Department has worked closely with interested parties, including with Macmillan Cancer Support, during the Warm Home Discount consultation process.

Fuel Poverty

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to prevent persons diagnosed with a terminal illness from living in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [36718]

Gregory Barker: The coalition Government are committed to helping those living in fuel poverty.

The Department continues to engage closely with interested parties on the issue of fuel poverty, most recently in relation to persons diagnosed with a terminal illness. The Department has worked closely with interested parties, including with Macmillan Cancer Support, during the Warm Home Discount consultation process.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of people were living in fuel poverty in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority and *(c)* parliamentary constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [37563]

Gregory Barker: The following table shows the number and the proportion of households in fuel poverty by Government office region in 2008, the latest year for which this information is available.

	Number of households in fuel poverty (thousand)	*Percentage of households in fuel poverty*
East midlands	359	19
East of England	292	12
London	328	11
North-east	236	21
North-west	531	18
South-east	342	10
South-west	339	15
West midlands	500	23
Yorkshire and the Humber	407	18

Fuel poverty data at a local authority and parliamentary constituency level are currently available for England in 2006 and are available on the DECC website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/regional/regional.aspx

Fuel poverty is a devolved statistic, with each separate Administration of the UK having their own policy targets, measurement and outputs. In 2008, there were 332,000 fuel poor households in Wales, equivalent to 26% of all Welsh households. There is no further regional breakdown on the Welsh fuel poverty data.

In 2009, there were 770,000 fuel poor households in Scotland, equivalent to 33% of all Scottish households. Fuel poverty data at a local authority level are available for Scotland and can be found in Table 8.10 via the following link:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SHCS/LA0709

Renewable Energy: Heating

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce details of the proposed Renewable Heat Incentive. [37482]

Gregory Barker: We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme shortly and to be open for business from 2011.

Warm Front Scheme: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people in Halifax have participated in the Warm Front scheme in the last five years. [36906]

Gregory Barker: Warm Front has assisted 4,214 households in the constituency of Halifax in the last five years[1].

[1] From 1 June 2005 to 31 December 2010

Warm Home Discount

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many persons responded to his Department's consultation on the Warm Home Discount; and if he will make a statement. [36705]

Gregory Barker: 1,800 responses were received which call for terminally ill people to be included in the core group. 47 responses were received to the consultation as a whole.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish the results of his Department's Warm Home Discount consultation; and if he will make a statement. [36706]

Gregory Barker: A consultation on the Government's proposals for the Warm Home Discount closed on 14 January. The responses to consultation are currently being considered and the Government will publish a response in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the payment of £5,000 from the Audit Commission to the Institute for Public Policy Research in April 2010; and what the title was of the associated conference. [36896]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The payment of £5,000 was for sponsorship of an IPPR seminar held on 14 April 2010 titled: The future of grant allocation for local service delivery in England.

The sponsorship included a Commission exhibition stand and branding at the event and on IPPR marketing materials.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the payment of £1,083 from the Audit Commission to De Vere Whites in May 2010; and how many officials attended the event for which the payment was made. [36898]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The meeting was for staff carrying out and reviewing work on quality accounts in Foundation Trusts in the north of England.

The event considerably reduced the time taken to complete and review the final audit reports, which enabled us to keep the costs of the audits to the clients, who paid directly for them, to a minimum.

An external venue was used as the Commission has no accommodation large enough in that area.

There were 30 attendees.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has paid to GymWorld Ltd. in the last 24 months; and for what purpose. [36900]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

During the last 24 months, the Commission has paid £1,078 to Gymworld for equipment used by staff in the gym at the Commission's Bristol office. This payment was recovered in total through staff subscriptions.

The Audit Commission does not fund or subsidise the staff gym and there is no cost to the public purse.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the meeting in the City Inn Westminster funded by the Audit Commission at a cost of £466 in April 2010; and how many officials attended the meeting. [36901]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The above meeting took place on 15 March 2010 and was a training event for Chairs of Professional Communities. There were 10 attendees. Meeting facilities were unavailable at Millbank at this time due to building work taking place as part of office downsizing.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the expenditure of £4,813 by the Audit Commission on the Royal Horseguards Hotel in June 2010; and how many officials attended the associated function. [36904]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The above expenditure was for an Audit Commission Alumni event held on 12 May 2010. There were 34 attendees and the event was an information gathering and exchange exercise with both former and current staff.

The Commission no longer holds Alumni events but relies on electronic networking.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the expenditure of £3,635 by the Audit Commission on the Holiday Inn Regents Park in June 2010; and how many officials attended the associated function. [36905]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The expenditure was for a professional development event for senior audit staff on 23 April 2010. Twenty six delegates, travelling from across the country, attended the event and eighteen of these required one night's overnight accommodation.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on external public *(a)* affairs and *(b)* relations in each of the last five years. [36940]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission spent the following amounts on external public affairs and relations in each of the last five years:

Consolidated Communications

	£
2006-07	36,300.00
2007-08	56,319.16
2008-09	21,276.60
2009-10	—
2010-11	—

EMAP

	£
2006-07	21,100.00
2007-08	21,156.00
2008-09	21,276.60
2009-10	22,425.36
2010-11	22,425.36

The Commission subscribes to an online information service provided by DeHavilland (EMAP) that allows our staff to keep informed of developments in Whitehall and Westminster.

Connect Public Affairs

	£
2006-07	—
2007-08	—
2008-09	27,594.88
2009-10	38,696.88
2010-11	—

This contract was terminated in February 2010.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on alcohol in each of the last three financial years. [37027]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission does not separately record expenditure on alcohol, because detailed invoicing is inconsistent. It does not allow staff to claim for alcoholic drinks when staying overnight on Commission business.

Council Tax

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to implement its policy on localising and reducing council tax benefit by 10%. [36547]

Robert Neill: The Government are still working to formulate the new arrangements on council tax benefit as announced in the 2010 spending review.

Departmental Furniture

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has spent on office chairs in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* make and model and *(b)* cost was of each type of chair. [36895]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 31 January 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent a total of £53,507.64 on office chairs in the last 12 months, as detailed on the attached sheet.

Since our abolition was announced on 13 August 2010, no further purchases of office chairs have been made.

Supplier	*Make/model*	*Quantity*	*Type*	*Unit price (£)*	*Total (£)*
Kinnarps	Monroe 966	12	Meeting Room Chairs	278.40	3,340.80
	Bone	11	Meeting Room Chairs	562.36	6,185.96
	MTE1A Stacking Chair	5	Meeting Room Chairs	206.40	1,032.00
	Omni Swivel chair 4812	4	Meeting Room Chairs	854.40	3,417.60
	Chair 5000CV 522	20	Meeting Room Chairs	177.60	3,552.00
	Citra Chair 315	4	Meeting Room Chairs	99.00	396.00
	Chair 5000CV 522A	16	Meeting Room Chairs	130.80	2,092.80
Naughtone	Track Bench 6 seater	1	Meeting Room Chair	1,962.00	1,962.00
	Hush Chair on Sled Legs	2	Meeting Room Chairs	840.00	1,680.00
Godfrey Syrett	Ergo Plus Chair High Back Asynchro	125	Desk Chairs	201.57	25,196.85
	Event	3	Meeting Room Chairs	234.00	702.00
	Prime 1090/SL	12	Meeting Room Chairs	180.00	2,160.00
	Xtreme Plus Costa Stacking Chair	8	Meeting Room Chairs	158.00	1,264.00
Posturite	RH Logic 300	1	Desk Chair	525.63	525.63
Total					53,507.64

Departmental Newspaper Press

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce his Department's expenditure on *(a)* newspapers and journals and *(b)* external media monitoring. [36945]

Robert Neill: Since May 2010, the Department has consolidated the seven separate sets of national newspapers previously received by the ministerial and special adviser offices to a single shared set of papers, delivering over £15,000 of ongoing revenue savings.

In addition, the Department's Communications Directorate has undertaken a review that has led to a reduction in the number of magazines and journals it subscribes to and a move to a single supplier, realising further annual savings of approximately £6,000.

In September 2010 the Department's regional cuttings service was cancelled and the national cuttings service moved to an electronic only format with a limited list of recipients. Neither DCLG Ministers nor officials in the Department now receive hard copy press cuttings. Ministers have taken the view that an excessive and unnecessary amount of taxpayers' money was being spent on press cuttings. The Department estimates that the cancellation of the regional cuttings service and streamlining of the national cuttings service will save approximately £16,000 and £19,000 respectively in the remainder of this financial year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on photography since May 2010. [34489]

Robert Neill: This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, all spending on goods and services over £500 is published by my Department's website.

Moreover, no ministerial photographs have been procured at public expense; this is in contrast to the £2,648 of taxpayers' money spent on ministerial photography from April 2006 to April 2010.

Empty Properties

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of long-term empty properties following the announcement of his planned reforms to empty dwelling management orders. [36678]

Andrew Stunell: The coalition agreement commits us to exploring a range of measures to bring empty homes back into use. As part of that, we have recently completed a consultation on the New Homes Bonus which includes the option of including empty homes within the scheme. This could provide local authorities with a powerful financial incentive to tackle empty homes as part of their overall approach to meeting housing need.

We will also provide £100 million for housing associations and local authorities to bring over 3,000 empty homes back into use as low cost housing. This will enable local authorities and housing associations to tackle the most difficult properties by providing renovation works and management support.

Our proposals for reform to Empty Dwelling Management Orders will allow local authorities to take action against genuinely derelict housing which blight neighbourhoods, whilst respecting the rights of responsible home owners.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* private, *(b)* council-owned and *(c)* registered social landlord dwellings were recorded as being empty for longer than six months in each local authority in each of the last four years. [36680]

Robert Neill: A table showing the total number of dwellings recorded as being empty for longer than six months, and the numbers of dwellings owned by local councils and registered social landlords recorded as being empty for longer than six months in each English local authority in each of the last four years has been placed in the Library of the House.

The number of registered social landlord dwellings that are empty and not immediately available for letting is used as a proxy measure for vacancy of more than six months duration. Figures on council owned dwellings show the number of vacant dwellings owned by each local authority regardless of in which local authority area they are located. Reliable data on the numbers of privately owned dwellings that are empty are not held centrally.

Local Authorities: Powers

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements he plans to put in place to monitor the use of powers proposed to be given to local authorities under the provisions of the Localism Bill. [36910]

Greg Clark: We intend to undertake a post-implementation review of the key provisions in the Localism Bill within three to five years of them being commenced. Post-implementation reviews examine the extent to which the policy has achieved its objective, assess the costs and identify whether there have been any unintended consequences.

Local Authorities: Standards

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress he has made on formulating a code of recommended practice for local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [36617]

Robert Neill: We are currently considering the Communities and Local Government Committee report, published on 27 January, on our proposed publicity code. We intend to lay a new code before Parliament and publish the Government response to both the consultation and committee's report shortly.

Local Government: Christmas

Caroline Flint: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have notified his Department that they do not plan to organise events to mark the festival of Christmas in 2010. [32086]

Andrew Stunell: Local authorities are not required to tell my Department how they are celebrating Christmas as this is a local matter. However, the Secretary of State has received approximately 60 letters supporting his stance on the celebration of Christmas.

Members: Code of Conduct

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take in cases where a local authority does not introduce a voluntary code of conduct for elected members. [36536]

Robert Neill: None. It will be a matter for each local authority, democratically accountable to its own electorate, to decide whether or not to introduce a code of conduct for its members. In taking this decision, a council will have regard to the duty, provided for in the Localism Bill, to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its elected members. The Bill will make it a criminal offence to deliberately withhold or misrepresent a personal interest.

New Homes Bonus

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to make proposals arising from his consultation on the New Homes Bonus. [36526]

Grant Shapps: The New Homes Bonus will commence in April 2011. A consultation on the scheme design closed on 24 December 2010 and we are considering the responses. We will make an announcement on the final scheme design as soon as possible.

Planning

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms he plans to put in place to ensure that enforcement of planning regulation is strengthened in relation to unauthorised development. [34314]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Tiverton and Honiton (Neil Parish) on 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 503W.

Planning Permission

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications his Department *(a)* called in and *(b)* otherwise recovered for decision from each local authority in each of the last three years. [36685]

Robert Neill: A table setting out planning applications called in and planning appeals recovered for the Secretary of State's decision have been placed in the Library of the House.

Publicity Code

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish proposals arising from his Department's consultation on the publicity code. [36535]

Robert Neill: We are currently considering the Communities and Local Government Committee report, published on 27 January, on our proposed publicity code. We intend to lay a new code before Parliament and publish the Government response to both the consultation and Committee's report shortly.

Referendum

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of holding a referendum relating to council tax increases for the average *(a)* county, *(b)* district and *(c)* unitary local authority; [36550]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of holding a referendum on a local issue for the average *(a)* county, *(b)* district and *(c)* unitary local authority. [36551]

Robert Neill: The provisional figures in my Department's impact assessment for the council tax referendums consultation paper published on 30 July 2010, show that the estimated costs are around £70,000 to £250,000. This would be around £1.50 per elector, or around 50 pence per elector if a local referendum was held at the same time as an election in the area concerned. The impact assessment is available to view on the departmental website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/vetocounciltaxincreasesconsult

An impact assessment on the Localism Bill covering referendums' costs will be published in due course.

We believe our referendum proposals will be more democratic, especially since the right to veto excessive council tax increases will replace the top-down system of council tax capping by Whitehall, which gives no say to local residents.

Thames Gateway Development Corporation: Public Appointments

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to appoint a representative of the London borough of Tower Hamlets to serve on the Board of the Thames Gateway Development Corporation; and what the reason is for the time taken to make this appointment following the submission of the borough's nomination. [36807]

Robert Neill: I hope to make an appointment shortly. My officials are currently consulting the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments on the process to be followed in appointing a representative of the London borough of Tower Hamlets as a member of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation. While this consultation takes place, arrangements have been made for a representative of the borough to attend and speak at all meetings of the corporation.

TRANSPORT

Airports: South East

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on airport capacity in the South East. [35480]

Mrs Villiers: We have made clear that we do not support the construction of additional runways at Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted.

We have established the South East Airports Taskforce with key players from across the industry to explore the scope for measures to make the most of existing airport infrastructure and improve conditions for users of Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

We are also committed to producing a new policy framework for UK aviation which supports economic growth and protects Heathrow's status as a global hub, as well as addressing aviation's environmental impacts. We will issue a scoping document in March 2011, setting out the key strategic questions we are seeking to answer, followed by publication of a draft policy framework for consultation in March 2012.

Bus Services: Disability Aids

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring the introduction of audio and visual information systems on all new buses. [35999]

Norman Baker: Research has been commissioned to assess the costs and benefits of installing audio visual systems on buses. The research project has brought together a cross section of stakeholders, including Guide Dogs, Royal National Institute of Blind People and Royal National Institute for Deaf People.

We will take account of the results of this work in considering any changes to the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR).The project is due to report shortly.

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 29W, on bus services: finance, what definition of impact on services he uses. [35173]

Norman Baker: The term "impact on services" in the answer given on 10 January 2011 relates to the estimated percentage reduction in bus mileage in each of the specified areas.

Departmental Pubic Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010; [35395]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35415]

Norman Baker: Information on key public appointments made since May 2010 is published in individual press releases. These should include information on remuneration. Press releases are available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/releases/

In addition, information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for the 2010/11 period will be published in due course.

Driving Instruction: Training

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of expenditure by the Driving Standards Agency on the design, promotion and implementation of the programme of continuing professional development for driving instructors in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [35388]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) can provide the answer in full only at disproportionate cost.

Continuing professional development (CPD) for driving instructors was developed as an element of the agency's modernising driver training (MDT) project and is being promoted on a voluntary basis.

Since 1 April 2008, DSA has spent £111,532 on the design and promotion of voluntary CPD within the driving instructor industry.

DSA is, at this time, unable to readily identify other costs relating specifically to CPD, such as the cost of implementing it, as it is only one element of the wider MDT project.

Driving Standards Agency: Cardiff

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he took the decision to close the Driving Standards Agency office in Cardiff. [34976]

Mike Penning: I was first made aware of the intention of chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency to close the agency's office in Cardiff on 13 December 2010.

Further work needed to be done before details of the proposal could be finalised and the chief executive advised DSA staff of this on 15 December.

The final decision was announced on 18 January 2011.

Owen Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* correspondence Ministers and officials of his Department have had with the Wales Office on the closure of the Driving Standards Agency in Cardiff. [35075]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales, on a range of issues affecting Wales including the restructuring of the Driving Standards Agency.

We will continue to have such discussions regarding the proposed closure of the Cardiff DSA office throughout the consultation period.

Eurostar

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the chief executive of Eurostar since 1 December 2010; what the outcomes were of such discussions; and if he will make a statement. [35867]

Mrs Villiers: Department for Transport's Ministers have not had any discussions with the chief executive of Eurostar since 1 December 2010. However, officials in the Department continue to hold regular discussions with the company.

I spoke to the chairman of Eurostar, Richard Brown, by phone in December.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* benefits of the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Oxfordshire. [33828]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State announced on 25 November 2010 that the line between London, Oxford, Didcot and Newbury will be electrified over the next six years. Switching to electric trains will speed up journeys, improve reliability and reduce the impact on the environment. The exact costs and benefits of the scheme will depend on the full extent of electrification beyond Didcot, and a further announcement will be made in the coming weeks.

High Speed 2: Public Consultation

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that the forthcoming consultation on High Speed 2 will be open to responses from constituencies not only directly along the line of the proposed route, but also those adjacent to such constituencies; and if he will make a statement. [35677]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* All interested parties will be welcome to respond to the consultation regardless of their geographic location or any other factor.

High Speed Trains: West Coast Main Line

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of *(a)* the remaining capacity on the West Coast Main Line and *(b)* the maximum increase in capacity from upgrading the Chilterns Line if High Speed Two is not constructed. [36106]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have made no estimate of the remaining capacity on the West Coast Main Line. In December 2010, Network Rail published a draft West Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy for consultation which indicates that by 2024, the route, particularly at its southern end, will effectively be full.

The Department for Transport published a report by Atkins in March 2010 which reviewed options for upgrading the Chiltern line as an alternative to High Speed Two. This indicated that additional capacity could be provided with substantial investment in the route, but that the economic case for such expenditure would be poor. The report can be viewed on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail

High Speed Trains: West Midlands

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an estimate of the likely economic benefits to *(a)* Tamworth, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands from High Speed 2. [36019]

Mr Philip Hammond: The forthcoming consultation will include a detailed economic appraisal of the proposed line between London and the West Midlands and a higher-level assessment of the economic case for the 'Y'-shaped network. While it is hard to disaggregate these benefits for specific locations, Tamworth, Staffordshire and the West Midlands would each benefit from high-speed rail, including from capacity being released on existing lines.

Highways Agency: Telephone Services

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 83W, on the Highways Agency: telephone services, what proportion of calls to the Highways Agency public helpline were unanswered in each week of November and December 2010. [36817]

Mike Penning: The following table shows the proportion of calls unanswered in each week of November and December 2010. Calls abandoned within 60 seconds are not counted as part of our abandoned call target as customers are given information in front end messages which may provide the answer required without the need to speak to an adviser. This is the agreed internal key performance indicator in line with industry standards.

Week commencing	*Received*	*Answered*	*Abandoned after 60-second wait*	*Percentage abandoned after 60-second wait*
1 November	2,507	2,285	85	3.4
8 November	2,947	2,541	185	6.3
15 November	2,373	2,147	106	4.5
22 November	3,677	3,228	217	5.9
29 November	9,231	6,311	1,298	14.1
6 December	3,772	3,377	165	4.4
13 December	8,072	4,098	2,524	31.3
20 December	6,449	4,963	921	14.3
27 December	1,444	1,371	29	2.0

Large Goods Vehicles

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the acknowledged stopping time is for heavy goods vehicles travelling within each legal speed limit; and if he will make a statement. [35732]

Mike Penning: Stopping time and distance depends on a number of factors, including road conditions, driver-reaction time and also the condition of the vehicle including its tyres.

We would expect the minimum stopping time for heavy goods vehicles would be according to the following table:

Speed (mph)	*Time (seconds)*
30	3.9
40	4.8
50	5.7
60	6.6

Large Goods Vehicles: Technology

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to make anti jack-knifing technology such as anti-lock brakes, electronic brake force distribution, electromagnetic braking systems or manually operated trailer brakes mandatory for all freight vehicles on UK roads; and if he will make a statement. [37185]

Mike Penning: Legislation introduced in Great Britain in May 2002 requires all heavy commercial vehicles and their trailers, with a maximum gross weight exceeding 3500kg, to be fitted with anti-lock braking systems.

A large number of new heavy commercial vehicles and their trailers are also fitted with electronic braking systems. In addition, electronic stability systems will be required on new vehicles and trailers under a phased introduction starting in November 2011.

European wide legislation on vehicle and trailer construction standards is already in place. While there are no plans to mandate specific anti jack-knifing technology, the introduction of advanced stability and braking systems on new vehicles will help to reduce loss of control situations which can lead to vehicle jack knifing.

Network Rail: Contracts

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the monetary value was of contingent labour contracts funded by Network Rail in each of the last five financial years; [34797]

(2) how much funding Network Rail plans to allocate to *(a)* track maintenance, *(b)* overhead lines maintenance and *(c)* contingent labour in each of the next four financial years. [34798]

Mrs Villiers: These are operational matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's acting chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Peter Henderson
Acting Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

Network Rail: Overcrowding

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with Network Rail and First Great Western steps to deal with overcrowding on weekday services to London Paddington departing from *(a)* Bristol Temple Meads at 06.00, *(b)* Oxford at 07.10 and *(c)* Reading at 07.42. [36286]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 January 2011]:* The Department for Transport is currently in discussions with First Great Western regarding steps to reduce overcrowding on its services.

Railways

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the 10 rail services with the highest usage were in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [36198]

Mrs Villiers: Passenger counts are currently collected from franchised train operators twice a year: in the spring and autumn. Count data held by the Department for Transport are classified as commercially confidential and the data are not normally released at a service level. However, a list of the 10 most overcrowded peak-time London commuter train services in autumn 2009 was released recently by the Department. A copy of this list has been placed in the House Libraries.

Railways: Industrial Disputes

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answers of 21 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1302W and 14 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 4W, on railways: disputes, for what reasons the information is no longer released on grounds of commercial confidentiality; and if he will make a statement. [36162]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: The answer to the question of 21 December 2010 covers a single payment, which would thus be identifiable. To release the information requested would constitute a breach of commercial confidentiality.

This contrasts with the answer referred to within the question on 14 March 2005, which provided aggregated information relating to a number of payments. In this case, disclosure of the total amounts paid did not provide information that was sufficient to identify individual payments or the operators to whom they were paid.

Railways: Overcrowding

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which 50 rail passenger routes showed the greatest excess of load over capacity in the most recent survey period for which figures are available. [36055]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 25 January 2011]*: Passenger counts are currently collected from franchised train operators twice a year: in the spring and autumn. Count data held by the Department for Transport are classified as commercially confidential and the data are not normally released at a service level. However, a list of the 10 most overcrowded peak-time London commuter train services in autumn 2009 was released recently by the Department. A copy of this list has been placed in the House Libraries.

Railways: Public Expenditure

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of funding in his Department's Statement of Funds Available will be spent on railways in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales as a result of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [34644]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold information which separates out the statement of funds available in England and Wales.

Road Traffic: Oil

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what price of oil per barrel his Department used in its estimates of congestion in the next five years. [34925]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport forecasts changes in congestion using the National Transport Model (NTM). The most recent forecast report, "Road Transport Forecasts 2009: Results from the Department for Transport's National Transport Model", contains congestion forecasts for 2015, and is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/forecasts2009/

The oil price projections assumed in the above forecasts are those published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

DECC's latest forecasts of fossil fuel prices and a description of the scenarios are available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/projections/projections.aspx

Roads: Accidents

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving under-age drivers were reported in each police authority area in each of the last five years; and how many such incidents resulted in prosecutions. [37088]

Mike Penning: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver below the minimum legal age required to drive that vehicle is given in the following table:

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver below the minimum legal age required to drive that vehicle[1, 2], by police force: Great Britain 2005 to 2009

Accidents

Police force code	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Great Britain	1,237	987	814	639	520
Avon and Somerset	44	32	19	25	19
Bedfordshire	20	17	9	3	8
Cambridgeshire	20	16	13	8	5
Cheshire	27	16	19	12	12
City of London	0	1	0	0	0
Cleveland	8	7	6	3	4
Cumbria	9	4	4	4	5
Derbyshire	15	17	10	13	15

Reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one driver below the minimum legal age required to drive that vehicle[1], [2], by police force: Great Britain 2005 to 2009

					Accidents
Police force code	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Devon and Cornwall	72	51	41	28	28
Dorset	23	8	14	9	4
Durham	6	10	7	13	10
Essex	20	34	29	21	7
Gloucestershire	8	8	11	5	5
Greater Manchester	89	63	35	25	13
Hampshire	35	35	28	15	14
Hertfordshire	21	13	10	11	4
Humberside	34	12	13	9	12
Kent	43	44	24	21	18
Lancashire	40	21	25	25	22
Leicestershire	20	14	7	10	9
Lincolnshire	13	10	8	5	4
Merseyside	38	27	22	10	12
Metropolitan Police	101	76	61	63	43
Norfolk	9	10	9	10	3
North Yorkshire	12	9	8	2	8
Northamptonshire	12	8	4	9	5
Northumbria	29	21	20	17	15
Nottinghamshire	25	24	21	12	13
South Yorkshire	51	35	31	18	16
Staffordshire	17	26	20	7	4
Suffolk	10	7	5	14	8
Surrey	28	15	8	23	13
Sussex	38	24	27	17	13
Thames Valley	32	31	21	18	10
Warwickshire	11	12	7	11	6
West Mercia	17	7	10	4	17
West Midlands	62	33	36	23	20
West Yorkshire	44	58	49	31	30
Wiltshire	8	10	7	4	5
Dyfed-Powys	10	5	8	4	1
Gwent	10	10	9	2	6
North Wales	7	13	7	5	5
South Wales	20	18	22	11	10
Central	4	5	4	8	3
Dumfries and Galloway	4	3	2	1	2
Fife	1	1	3	4	1
Grampian	9	10	7	6	8
Lothian and Borders	10	14	23	13	9
Northern	7	8	0	5	1
Strathclyde	36	26	26	17	11
Tayside	8	8	5	5	4

[1] Relates to drivers of a motor vehicle only.

[2] Includes accidents involving motor vehicles of an unspecified type. In these cases the legal age to drive has been assumed to be 17.

The court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice contains information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Other than where specified in a statute, statistical information available centrally does not include the circumstances of each case. It is therefore not possible to separately identify motoring offences proceeded against and those which resulted in an accident.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving uninsured drivers were reported in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [37093]

Mike Penning: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department for Transport.

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the number of accidents involving *(a)* motorcyclists, *(b)* cyclists and *(c)* pedestrians. [37252]

Mike Penning: We are aiming to publish the new strategic framework for road safety by April of this year and intend for the measures that it will set out to continue to increase road safety for all road users, including motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded accidents on *(a)* A-roads and *(b)* motorways were attributable to escaped farm animals and horses in each of the last five years. [37706]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport collates information on animals identified as carriageway hazards in reported personal injury road accidents. However, information on the types of animals involved in accidents and whether they were escaped farm animals or horses is not available.

The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving animals as hazards in the carriageway by *(a)* A-roads and *(b)* motorways in the last five years is shown in the following table:

Number of reported personal injury road accidents where an animal[1] *was identified as carriageway hazard, by type of roads, Great Britain, 2005-09*

	Type of road	
	A-roads	*Motorways*
2005	473	36
2006	492	29
2007	450	33
2008	371	18
2009	354	25

[1] Except ridden horse.

Roads: Safety

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will set a precise date for the publication of his Department's new strategic framework for road safety. [36371]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* The Department for Transport's business plan for 2011-15 sets out that the date for developing the new strategic framework for road safety is by April 2011.

Sole Bay

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he took into account in reaching his decision that Sole Bay should be the only place where ship-to-ship transfers of oil can be made in UK coastal waters. [36348]

Mike Penning: I took into account the fact that these waters off the Suffolk coast are the only area where the Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency currently allows ship-to-ship transfers (other than those in a harbour authority area) to be carried out, and that these waters are recognised by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and by the industry as a suitable area for carrying out ship-to-ship transfers on navigational safety grounds. I also considered whether there was a demand from the industry for ship-to-ship transfers in other locations around the UK coast, and I considered the implications of introducing ship-to-ship transfers to waters where they are not currently carried out.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps is he taking to make speed camera data *(a)* in Sussex and *(b)* nationally more accessible to the public. [35729]

Mike Penning: We have made a commitment that information about cameras will be easily available to the public by April 2011. This could include data about accident rates at camera sites, vehicle speeds and the numbers of motorists prosecuted or offered training after offences recorded by cameras.

Public bodies should be accountable and if taxpayers' money is being spent on speed cameras then it is right that information about their effectiveness is available to the public. These proposals will help show what impact cameras are having on accident and casualty rates and also how the police are dealing with offenders. This is in line with our commitment to improve transparency of Government data so that the public are able to make more informed judgments about the work of local and central Government.

Train Operating Companies: Water

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances train companies are required to provide water to passengers free of charge. [36349]

Mrs Villiers: There is no legal or contractual requirement for train operating companies to provide water to passengers free of charge.

Transport: Costs

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus, *(c)* train and *(d)* domestic aeroplane since (i) 1981 and (ii) 1997. [35486]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* Between 1981 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 10%, bus and coach fares increased by 56% and rail fares increased by 51% in real terms. These figures are based on the transport components of the retail prices index.

Between 1997 and 2010 the real cost of motoring, including the purchase of a vehicle, declined by 7%, bus and coach fares increased by 24% and rail fares increased by 17% in real terms.

The costs of travelling by air are not available from the retail prices index. However, the cost of the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic flights fell by 35% in real terms between 1997 and 2008, the latest date for which figures are available.

Transport: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many major infrastructure projects his Department is committed to funding *(a)* in London and *(b)* elsewhere in England; and what the value is of each such project. [34167]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* My Department is committed to funding the following major infrastructure projects:

(a) London

Rail projects

Project	*Value (£ billion)*
Crossrail	[1]4.7
Thameslink	c.4.0

[1] DFT contribution (total value c.£14.6 billion)

Other major transport infrastructure projects in London, such as investment in the London Underground network, are funded by Transport for London (TfL), drawing on financial support provided by the Secretary of State and on TfL's other sources of income, including fares.

The funding agreement between the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/letters/tflfunding/

sets out the level of financial support for the next four years. The Mayor has confirmed that this agreement will allow TfL to deliver the infrastructure projects listed at Annex B of the funding agreement.

(b) Elsewhere in England

Rail projects

Project	*Value (£ million)*
Reading Station	c.850
Electrification to Newbury/Oxford	c.600

Other rail infrastructure projects are funded by Network Rail (NR), drawing on income from the Department for Transport and NR's own borrowing.

Road schemes

Existing schemes	*Value (£ million)*[1]
M1 junctions 10-13	460
M1 junction 19 Catthorpe viaduct replacement	25
M25 junctions 16-23	700
M25 junctions 27-30	590
A1 Dishforth-Leeming	330
A3 Hindhead	380
A46 Newark-Widmerpool	390

[1] These values are central estimates within a range estimate for each scheme.

Forthcoming committed schemes (due to start before 2015)

M1 junctions 28-31
M1 junctions 32-35a
M1 junctions 39-42
M25 junctions 5-6/7
M25 junctions 23-27
M4 junctions 19-20 and M5 junctions 15-17
M6 junctions 5-8
M60 junctions 8-12
M60 junctions 12-15
M62 junctions 18-20
M62 junctions 25-30
A11 Fiveways-Thetford
A23 Handcross-Warninglid
A556 Knutsford-Bowdon

My Department has asked the Highways Agency to develop by spring this year an optimised programme for delivering the 14 schemes confirmed as going ahead in my announcement of 26 October 2010. This programme will deliver maximum efficiency savings across the programme. The programme was previously valued at £2.3 billion (the total of central estimates within a range for each scheme). Given that the agency's work to develop an optimised programme for the schemes is not yet complete, and that the work involves commercial negotiations with the supply chain, it would not be appropriate to attempt to set out scheme estimates in more detail or against individual schemes.

Local authority major schemes

Local authority	*Scheme name*	*DFT maximum contribution (£ million)*
Luton	Luton-Dunstable Busway (formerly Translink)	80.3
Essex	A130/A13 Sadlers Farm Junction	63.5
Tees Valley	Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements	37.5
Nexus	Metro Ticketing and Gating	13.4
GMPTE	Metrolink Extensions Phase 3b (Ashton and E Didsbury)	123.1
GMPTE	Metrolink Extensions Phase 3a (Rochdale, Oldham and Chorlton)	273.3
Wirral/ Merseytravel/HA	Bidston Moss Viaduct (M53 J1) Maintenance	[1]76.6
Stockport	Greater Manchester Highway Retaining Walls Maintenance	40.5
Blackpool	Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway Upgrade	66.9
Cheshire	A34 Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley Bypass	48.2
Liverpool	Edge Lane/Eastern Approaches	19.3
GMPTE	Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control (UTC)	13.5
Liverpool	Hall Lane Strategic Gateway	16.5
Kent	East Kent Access Phase 2	82.1
Kent	Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road	23.4
Dorset	Weymouth Relief Road	79.2
South Gloucestershire	Greater Bristol Bus Network	42.3
Dorset	Weymouth 2012 Package	9.1
Poole Borough Council	Poole Bridge Regeneration Initiative	14.1
Somerset County Council	Taunton Third Way	5.4
Birmingham	Birmingham Gateway (New Street)	[2]160.6
WM Mets	West Mids Urban Traffic Control	26.6
Sandwell	A41 Expressway	22.2
WM Mets	West Midlands Red Routes Phase 1	23.0
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton Interchange	15.6
Birmingham	Selly Oak New Road	31.5
Dudley	Burnt Tree Junction	11.8
Leeds	A65 Quality Bus Corridor	19.8
Nexus	Tyne and Wear Metro Upgrade	350.0
Surrey	Walton Bridge	23.9

[1] Total DFT contribution (HA plus major schemes)

[2] Excludes Network Rail funding

Local authority PFI projects

Operational LA PFI projects	*PFI credit (£million)*[1]
Carlisle Northern Development Route	158.0
A130 (Essex)	97.5
Doncaster Interchange	26.2
Nottingham Express Transit 1	174.2

Local authority PFI projects

Operational LA PFI projects	*PFI credit (£million)*[1]
Barnet	27.8
Blackpool	33.9
Brent	7.5
Coventry	64.3
Derby	35.7
Dorset	31.6
Ealing	25.3
Enfield	23.7
Hampshire	121.0
Islington	12.2
Lambeth	17.2
Leeds	94.6
Manchester	34.1
Norfolk	38.1
North Tyneside and Newcastle	44.4
Nottingham	44.6
Redcar and Cleveland	21.1
Southampton	25.9
South Tyneside	31.5
Staffordshire	18.0
Stoke	16.0
Sunderland	25.9
Surrey	73.9
Wakefield	16.2
Walsall	18.6
West Sussex	78.2
Birmingham HM	625.2
Portsmouth HM	121.0

[1] All figures given are PFI credits, which are allocated to projects when they become operational and are paid over the lifetime of the project (usually 25 years)

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the possibility of using tax increment financing to fund regional transport infrastructure projects. [35061]

Norman Baker: This is a matter for the Treasury. The Local Government Resource Review is assessing the implications of using tax increment financing and developing options for taking it forward through legislation.

Transport: Snow and Ice

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he has had discussions with international counterparts on appropriate measures for dealing with ice and snow; [34063]

(2) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Scottish Executive and *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government on travel issues resulting from the recent severe weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [34065]

Norman Baker: My right hon. Friend, the Transport Secretary, spoke to Scotland's Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and to the Deputy First Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government during the recent period of severe weather. He also had frequent discussions with Ministers and officials from the devolved Administrations—as well as other Government Departments—as part of the many Winter Resilience Network Meetings. These meetings took place at ministerial and official level, to monitor preparedness for severe weather, review actions taken to date, share information and assess contingency plans.

He has had no discussions on winter resilience issues with international counterparts during this period but has been kept informed by officials of the impact of the severe weather on transport networks on the European mainland.

Trust Ports: Finance

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much trust ports have borrowed in the last three fiscal years. [35341]

Mike Penning: In the Department for Transport's capital departmental expenditure limit, the relevant items that score each financial year are the sum total of new borrowings by the major trust ports in England and Wales offset against any capital repayments they made during the same year. The net borrowing levels of the major trust ports for the last three financial years were:

	£ million
2007-08	14.8
2008-09	1.7
2009-10	[1]-2.1

[1] A net repayment

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men he has appointed to public duties since May 2010; [35409]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled. [35431]

The Prime Minister: Information on the public appointments I have made since taking office is published in individual press notices. These can be found on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices

Information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for 2010-11 will be published in due course.

Local Government: Visits

Jon Trickett: To ask the Prime Minister which local authority *(a)* leaders and *(b)* councillors have been invited to 10 Downing street since May 2010. [37344]

The Prime Minister: A wide range of organisations and individuals are invited to No. 10 Downing street. A list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations is published quarterly. Information on official and charity receptions held at No. 10 Downing street is published by means of an annual list as soon as it is ready at the end of the financial year.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Winnick: To ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps to ensure Ministers respond to correspondence on official matters from hon. Members within four weeks or less. [37274]

The Prime Minister: In November 2010, the Deputy Prime Minister and I wrote to all members of the Cabinet asking them to ensure that correspondence is responded to in a timely fashion. Our offices deal with all correspondence as efficiently as possible.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Administration

Mr Offord: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether consideration of the memorandum of understanding between the Government and the devolved Administrations will form a part of his work on the West Lothian question. [37035]

Mr Harper: Careful consideration is ongoing as to the timing, composition, scope and remit of the Commission to consider the West Lothian question. Its work will need to take account of our proposals to reform the House of Lords to create a wholly or mainly elected second chamber, the changes being made to the way this House does business and amendments to the devolution regimes, for example in the Scotland Bill presently before the House. We will make an announcement later this year.

Elections: Operating Costs

Philip Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the *(a)* initial and *(b)* operating costs associated with machine counting in elections; and if he will make a statement. [36451]

Mr Harper: The Government have made no assessment of the costs of machine counting in elections.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Experiments: Cosmetics

Neil Parish: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on *(a)* Directive 86/609/ECC and *(b)* the use of animal-testing for cosmetic products. [36472]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has had no such recent discussions. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has responsibility for animal testing for cosmetic products.

Forestry Commission: Land

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the legal protection of rights of way over permissive or concessional paths and tracks on land leased or managed by the Forestry Commission which may be sold over the comprehensive spending review period. [35479]

Mr Paice: The Government's policy is to protect the public benefits that are currently provided by the public forest estate. Our consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate sets out and invites views on our proposals for protecting public benefits. The case for creating legal protection for permissive or concessional paths and tracks will be considered as part of the consultation. For sales that are completed before the consultation is concluded, the protection of public benefits will be a key factor in both the criteria for site selection and there will be an opportunity for the voluntary sector or public bodies to identify areas of land in which they have a particular interest in order to safeguard or enhance public benefits.

EDUCATION

Adoption

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on trends in the number of potential adoptive parents over the last *(a)* 12 months, *(b)* 10 years and *(c)* 20 years. [34369]

Tim Loughton: The Department does not collect the data requested.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many children aged between one year and five years old were adopted in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 1996; [34409]

(2) how many infants under 12 months were adopted in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 1996. [34411]

Tim Loughton: The number of infants under 12 months and the number of children aged between one year and five years old who were adopted in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2000, and *(c)* 1996, is shown in the following table.

Looked after children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March, by age[1, 2, 3, 4] Years ending 31 March 1996, 2000 and 2010, Coverage: England

			Number
Age at adoption (years)	*1996*	*2000*	*2010*
All children aged 5 or under	1,200	2,000	2,600
Under 1	150	190	70
1 to 5	1,000	1,800	2,500

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, and to the nearest 10, otherwise.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

Source:
SSDA903

CAFCASS: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many individuals the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service employs in offices in Wales. [34147]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 January 2011]*: This Department does not hold the information which has been requested; the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in Wales.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 80W, on the education maintenance allowance, what assessment he has made of the extent to which the students sampled for the National Foundation for Education Research Study was representative of the population of students in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [34170]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The research, undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research, focused on the barriers to participation in post-16 education and training faced by young people.

The research was based on a sample of 2,029 young people, who were chosen to be representative of young people aged 16 and 17, in terms of their gender and attainment, incidence of learning difficulty and/or disability (LDD) and destination in the September after leaving year 11. The research was undertaken across six local authorities, which were selected to be broadly representative (in terms of type, urban and rural and levels of deprivation). The survey was also supplemented with interviews with booster samples of: 303 young people with LDD; 102 parents of young people with LDD; 65 young people in a job without training (JWT) aged 16 or 17; 75 young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16 or 17; and 76 teenage parents aged 16-18.

Free School Meals: Suffolk

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in receipt of free school meals *(a)* attend schools in Suffolk Coastal constituency and *(b)* are resident in that constituency. [33004]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table.

The answer includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state-funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: school meal arrangements[4,5], Suffolk Coastal—January 2010

	Number on roll[4,5]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]	Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals
Pupils attending schools in Suffolk Coastal constituency			
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	5,228	563	10.8
State-funded secondary[1,2]	4,553	446	9.8
Special[3]	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
Pupils resident[7] in Suffolk Coastal constituency			
Maintained nursery and primary[1]	5,214	566	10.9
State-funded secondary[1,2]	5,496	510	9.3
Special[3]	80	23	28.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Includes pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between five and 15.
[6] No schools of this type.
[7] Based on pupils' postcode as reported in School Census.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in Redditch constituency he expects will receive the pupil premium in 2011-12. [32245]

Mr Gibb: The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 school census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

The January 2010 school census allows an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. In the Redditch constituency in January 2010 there were approximately 1,760 pupils in Redditch schools known to be eligible (rounded to the nearest 10), which would give rise to a pupil premium of £756,800. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed. The number of eligible pupils in 2011 could be higher or lower. The figures do not include the pupil premium for service children, which is paid at the lower rate of £200 per pupil, or for looked after children who attract their own premium, again set at £430 for 2011-12.

Religion: Education

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for religious education in the proposed English Baccalaureate. [35493]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* For the purposes of the 2010 performance tables the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate measure was either history or geography. We have not included religious education (RE) as fulfilling the humanity requirement of the English Baccalaureate because it is already a compulsory subject. One of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE. However we recognise, as many schools do, the benefits that religious education can bring to pupils. This is why the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. Success in all subjects studied at GCSE will also continue to be recognised by other performance table measures, as it has in the past. We are open to arguments about how we can further improve the measures in the performance tables and will review the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 tables.

School Food Trust

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on the future of the School Food Trust since 14 October 2010. [23570]

Sarah Teather: Representations in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence from an MP have been received concerning issues such as future funding and duties, and the future relationship between the Department and the School Food Trust.

I refer the hon. Member to the replies given on 3 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 1063W and 8 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 354-55W.

In our responses to these representations, the Government have set out the important role that the School Food Trust will play, as we continue to support schools in ensuring that all pupils benefit from a healthy and affordable school lunch.

Vocational Education: Hexham

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to the Wolf Review of vocational education, what definition of vocational education he uses in respect of Hexham. [30042]

Mr Gibb: The Secretary of State for Education has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out a broad review of vocational education in England, including its organisation, funding and target audience and the principles which should underpin its content, structure and teaching methods.

The scope of the review includes all education leading to vocational and vocationally-related qualifications for 14 to 19-year-olds; it does not include the national curriculum, GCSEs or A levels.

JUSTICE

Administration of Estates: Banks

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* limit the amount charged by banks for the administration of estates and *(b)* ensure that those seeking to appoint a bank as an executor receive independent professional advice as to the likely costs of such actions. [35066]

Mr Djanogly: Under the law of England and Wales anyone may make a will without professional advice. The person making the will (the testator) usually specifies the people he or she wants to administer his or her estate (the executors). It is for the testator to choose his or her executors. Banks appointed as executors cannot charge for their services unless and to the extent that they are authorised to do so by the testator in the will, by the court or by statute. There are no plans to change the law in this area.

Nonetheless, the Government acknowledge that making a will is an important act with significant consequences, which should be properly understood by the testator. To help individuals understand the effects of making a will, the Government provide information on a number of websites. Information may also be obtained from other sources. For example, last year, the Office of Fair Trading published advice for consumers on making wills and appointing executors. This advice, available on the Consumer Direct website, helps consumers understand the options available to them and enables them to make an informed choice.

Appeals

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is for future funding from the public purse for *(a)* initial appearance, *(b)* appeals to employment tribunals and *(c)* subsequent appeals to (i) the Court of Appeal, (ii) the Supreme Court and (iii) European courts. [36682]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice consultation "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales", which was published on 15 November, proposes that all employment cases which do not arise from allegations of unlawful discrimination should be removed from the scope of the legal aid scheme. Unlawful discrimination claims in employment cases that are currently within scope would remain within scope.

Compensation Orders

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals convicted of a crime did not adhere to the terms of a compensation order in each region in each of the last five years. [36693]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to supply information as to the number of offenders who did not adhere to the terms of their compensation order, without it being at a disproportionate cost. This is because the statistics held on payment and collection of financial penalties does not differentiate compensation from other financial penalties on court systems.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of crime in each region were awarded compensation by the courts and have not received the payments stipulated in the terms of the compensation order in each of the last five years. [36694]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to supply information as to the number of victims of crime that have not received the payments stipulated in the terms of the compensation order without it being done so at a disproportionate cost. This is because the statistics held on payment and collection of financial penalties does not differentiate compensation payments made from other financial penalties on court systems.

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many victims of crime were awarded compensation by the courts in each region in each of the last five years. [36696]

Mr Djanogly: Information is not held as to the exact number of victims of crime that were awarded compensation by the courts. However, the number of offenders ordered by the courts to pay compensation in each of the last five years is as follows:

Offenders ordered to pay compensation, by region 2005-09

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
London	26,452	27,267	29,682	31,401	33,180
North-west	18,103	20,209	26,052	24,014	21,784
North-east	18,545	18,456	24,095	27,098	20,788
Midlands	21,689	22,278	28,294	30,670	22,387
South-east	31,999	34,757	36,876	37,371	38,246
South-west	9,164	8,779	13,693	13,429	9,554
Wales	5,735	5,700	7,182	7,266	6,552
England and Wales	131,687	137,446	165,874	171,249	152,491

Note:

The figures are taken from sentencing statistics which are based on police force regions, which have been approximated into HMCS regions.

Convictions: Drugs

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those convicted of drug-related offences in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 had a previous conviction for a non-drug-related offence. [36395]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the proportion of those offenders convicted of drug offences in 2007-09 who had previously been convicted for a non-drug offence.

Table 1: Percentage of offenders convicted for drug offences who had previous convictions for non-drug offences in 2007-09

Year of sentence	*Percentage*
2007	78.1
2008	78.0
2009	78.7

These figures have been derived from the data used for table 6.1 of "Sentencing Statistics" which was published by the Ministry of Justice on 21 October 2010. The figures are based on offences of drug possession, supply, production or import/export of drugs. Previous criminal history counts are based on all non-drug offences. The Ministry of Justice is unable to identify offences which may be drug-related but are not specifically drug offences.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of those convicted of drug-related crimes in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006 had previous convictions for drug-related offences. [36397]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the proportion of those offenders convicted of drug offences in 2004-06 who had previously been convicted for drug offences.

Table 1: Percentage of offenders convicted for drug offences who had previous convictions for drug offences in 2004-06

Year of sentence	*Percentage*
2004	49.0
2005	49.0
2006	50.4

These figures have been derived from the data used for table 6.1 of "Sentencing Statistics" which was published by the Ministry of Justice on 21 October 2010. The figures are based on offences of drug possession, supply, production or import/export of drugs. The Ministry of Justice is unable to identify offences which may be drug-related but are not specifically drug offences.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

County Court Possession Duty Scheme

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the future of the county court possession duty scheme. [36522]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has recently undergone a tender process to award three year contracts for housing possession court duty schemes across England and Wales. As a result of this tender process the LSC now funds housing possession court duty schemes in 133 courts. The Government are currently consulting on legal aid reforms, but the consultation proposes that housing repossession cases will remain within scope.

Courts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 679-80W, on courts, what the cost of the virtual court in each category of expenditure has been to date. [36542]

Mr Djanogly: The cost of the virtual courts from March 2009 to date in respect of pilot and trial operation is £5.290 million which is categorised as follows: Set up costs £1.8 million; technology running costs £1.896 million; non-technology running costs £1.587 million and legal aid costs £7,000. Additionally operational staff assigned to the processing of virtual court cases equates to a cost of £0.735 million

Custodial Treatment

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders serving custodial sentences have previously *(a)* been found guilty of at least one criminal offence and *(b)* served at least one custodial sentence. [36549]

Mr Blunt: Of the offenders serving an immediate custodial sentence at 30 June 2009 84% had previously been convicted of at least one offence and 61% had previously served at least one custodial sentence. These figures are a further breakdown of table 7.32 in "Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009" which was published on 22 July 2010.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Custodial Treatment: Expenditure

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of providing a prison place for a custodial offender for 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [36482]

Mr Blunt: For 2008-09 (latest period available) the overall average resource cost per prisoner and per prison place is as follows:

Average Resource cost per prisoner—£41,000

Average Resource cost per prison place—£45,000

Note:

Figures rounded to nearest £1,000.

The overall average cost comprises the direct local establishment costs of public and private prisons (as recorded in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency 2008-09 Annual Report and Accounts), increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the regions by NOMS. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the Baseline Certified Normal Accommodation number of places; this gives a higher unit cost than the cost per prisoner.

Departmental Public Consultation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36606]

Mr Blunt: The steps the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is taking to meet its target of reducing carbon emissions from the office estate by 10% by May 2011 are published on the internet and can be seen at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

in the attachment titled: "10 percent reduction pack for online publication Nov update—pub Jan v3.pdf." page 15 refers.

MoJ is implementing a number of initiatives with relatively short pay back times e.g. installing timer switches, thermostatic controls, monitoring and targeting offices with high energy consumption. More capital-intensive measures include: putting in voltage optimisation kit, installing new energy efficient boilers and chillers and ensuring that plant is kept in optimum working condition.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) of each age group and (ii) in each police authority area have been (A) prosecuted and (B) convicted under each offence created by the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 in each year since its enactment; [36703]

(2) what the average *(a)* fine and *(b)* period of imprisonment is in respect of each offence created by the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999. [36704]

Mr Blunt: The number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts by age group in England and Wales for offences under the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 since commencement are shown in the following table.

There were no cases in which an immediate custodial sentence was given following a conviction for these offences. The fine amount has been provided in each of the two sentenced cases.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for offences under the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, England and Wales 2004, 2008 and 2009[1,2,3]

	2004		*2008*		*2009*			*Sentence outcome*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Fine*	*Fine amount (£)*
Offences under sections 8 and 9(1)[4]									
Male									
18 and over									
Humberside	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	800
Total	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	800
Female									
18 and over									
Essex	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	750
Total	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	750
Offences under sections 9(6) and (7)[5]									
Male									
18 and over									
Hampshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July, and August 2008.

[4] Includes following offences:
Licensed dog breeder selling dog otherwise than at a licensed breeding establishment/pet shop
Licensed dog breeder selling dog other than to licensed pet shop knowing/believing buyer intending to resale
Licensed dog breeder selling dog not born at licensed breeding establishment to keeper of licensed pet shop
Keeper of licensed breeding establishment sold dog to keeper of licensed pet shop dog not wearing collar with ID
Keeper of licensed breeding establishment sold dog under eight weeks old other than to keeper of licensed pet shop

[5] Includes following offences:
Having custody of a dog in contravention of an order made under section 9(2)(c)
Failed to comply with a requirement imposed under Section 9(4) and (5)

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice

Note:
Only those years are shown where data have been reported. Rows with nil data have been excluded from the table.

Driving Offences: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people resident in West Yorkshire have been convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in each year since 2007; [36557]

(2) how many people resident in West Yorkshire have been convicted of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol over the last five years. [36558]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving and driving while under the influence of alcohol and drugs in the West Yorkshire police force area, from 2005 to 2009 (latest available). Data available centrally do not identify the place of residence of those convicted of an offence.

Court proceedings data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. Thus data are given in the table for the West Yorkshire police force area in which the West Yorkshire constituency is situated.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving[1] *and driving while under the influence of drink and drugs*[2] *in West Yorkshire police force area, 2005-09*[3,4]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Causing death by dangerous driving	18	13	9	13	11

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving[1] and driving while under the influence of drink and drugs[2] in West Yorkshire police force area, 2005-09[3,4]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	3,495	3,266	3,131	2,824	2,666

[1] Causing death by dangerous driving—Road Traffic Act 1988 s.1 as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 s.1 and Criminal Justice Act 1993 s.67.

[2] Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs—Road Traffic Act 1988—s.4(1), s.5(1)(a), s.7(6), s.4(2), s.5(1)(b), s.7(6), s.6(4), s.7A, s.56, s.31A, s.52, s.4(2), s.4(1), s.4(2).

[3] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Insurance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to bringing forward proposals to prohibit insurers from recommending or referring those involved in accidents to lawyers with whom the insurers have a commercial arrangement, including the payment by the lawyer to the insurer of a panel membership or referral fee; and what assessment he has made of the steps which would be required to make such activity an offence in law. [37012]

Mr Djanogly: Lord Justice Jackson recommended that the payment of referral fees should be banned in personal injury cases in his "Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Final Report", published in January 2010. The Government are currently awaiting the response of the Legal Services Board to their recent consultation 'Referral fees, referral arrangements and fee sharing' before reaching a conclusion on the matter.

Interpretation and Translation Services

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 46-47WS, on interpretation and translation services (justice sector), (1) what steps he plans to take to maintain the quality of translation and interpretation services for defendants under his proposals; [36560]

(2) what progress has been made on the procurement of translation and interpretation services for defendants under his proposals; [36561]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely cost saving to his Department of implementation of the proposed changes in each of the next three years; [36562]

(4) whether he has consulted *(a)* the National Register of Public Service Interpreters and *(b)* the National Register of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind people on the proposed changes to procurement of translation and interpretation services for defendants; [36563]

(5) what qualifications translators and interpreters for defendants will be required to hold under his proposals; [36565]

(6) whether he consulted *(a)* police forces, *(b)* HM Courts Service, *(c)* the National Offender Management Service and *(d)* the Crown Prosecution Service on his proposed changes to procurement of translation and interpretation services for defendants. [36670]

Mr Blunt: The project to review the provision of interpretation and translation services was begun under the previous Administration which, like the present Government, recognised that there was room for improvement in the existing arrangements.

My officials are now in the final stages of a competitive dialogue procurement process with shortlisted bidders. When the process is at an end Ministers will make a decision whether or not to let a framework arrangement.

We have made it clear throughout that quality must be maintained. Any framework arrangement would specify quality standards. Key performance indicators would be used to ensure that a supplier met their contractual obligations. The qualifications to be required of interpreters and translators are currently being finalised.

Annual spend on interpretation and translation services across the criminal and civil justice sectors is estimated to be around £60million. If we were to let a framework arrangement we would hope to see savings of at least 10%.

Last summer my officials wrote to a wide range of stakeholders including the National Register of Public Service Interpreters and also Signature (who administer the National Register of Communication Professionals working with deaf and deafblind people) to inform them of our plans and to seek their comments.

This work is being taken forward by a project board which includes representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the National Policing Improvement Agency, HM Court Service, the Tribunal Service, the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Offender Management Service.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to ensure that the judicial appointments process is *(a)* cost-effective and *(b)* efficient. [36462]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice has completed an end-to-end review of the judicial appointments process, conducted in close consultation with the Lord Chief Justice. I shared the outcomes of the review in a letter to the House of Lords Constitution Committee on 4 January 2011. The review concluded that the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) should seek to reduce costs by making organisational changes and streamlining its processes.

Efficiency across the end-to-end process is to be achieved through closer working between all parties involved in the process (the Ministry of Justice, the JAC, the Judicial Office, the courts and tribunals) to remove administrative constraints and duplication.

Legal Aid

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on implementing those recommendations of the Review by Lord Carter of Coles on legal aid procurement which the Government has accepted. [36440]

Mr Djanogly: The previous Government implemented many of the recommendations made in Lord Carter's 2006 report, including new or revised fixed and graduated fee schemes across criminal and civil legal aid. The remaining family fee scheme changes, delayed following judicial review proceedings in 2010, will be introduced as soon as possible this year.

Lord Carter also recommended a move towards competitive tendering for legal aid contracts, and it is our intention to consult on detailed proposals for the competitive tendering of criminal legal aid contracts later this year. In the longer term, we also intend to introduce competition in civil and family legal aid services.

Legal Aid: Homelessness

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the provision of legal aid to appellants against local authority refusals of applications for housing of homeless persons. [36434]

Mr Djanogly: The legal aid scheme currently funds advice and assistance, and legal representation, for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and are seeking accommodation from the local authority under their statutory obligations.

On 15 November, the Justice Secretary announced the publication of a consultation on a package of proposals for the reform of legal aid. Under the proposals, cases about actual homelessness or in which the home is at immediate risk will remain within the scope of the civil legal aid scheme. This includes applications for homelessness assistance where the claimant is seeking accommodation from the local authority under their statutory obligations under part VII of the Housing Act 1996, for a review of a decision under that part pursuant to section 202 of the Housing Act 1996, and appeals to the county court on a point of law under section 204, or under section 204A of that Act.

The consultation paper: "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales" is available at the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm

Legal Costs

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to bring forward proposals for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation in respect of the reforms set out in his Department's Green Paper on *(a)* legal aid reform and *(b)* reform of civil litigation funding. [36444]

Mr Djanogly: We have already announced our intention to abolish the Legal Services Commission as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows. The proposals on legal aid reform and civil litigation funding reforms are currently subject to consultations that close on 14 February. Once these consultations have concluded and responses have been analysed, the Government will publish their finalised proposals for reform of legal aid and civil litigation funding, including details of any legislation that will be required.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he took account of recommendations of the Eleventh Report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, Session 2009-10, on human rights and the UK private sector in his review of civil litigation costs. [36460]

Mr Djanogly: In taking forward Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations from his "Review of Civil Litigation Costs", the Government considered a wide variety of issues, including the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Human Rights. We are currently consulting on implementing a package of proposals for reforming civil litigation funding and costs put forward by Lord Justice Jackson. The consultation closes on Monday 14 February 2011, and the Government will publish a response setting out the next steps in due course.

Life Imprisonment

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the availability of indeterminate sentences for offenders who pose a serious threat to public safety. [36463]

Mr Blunt: We are conducting an assessment of sentencing to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending. On 7 December 2010 we published proposals in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", for public consultation. These proposals included the reform of sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection.

We propose to restrict these sentences to those who merit a minimum term of at least five years in prison. This will capture very serious sexual and violent offenders. It is proposed that violent and sexual offenders who do not meet the new threshold will be able to receive a long determinate sentence or in appropriate cases an extended sentence (where the offender remains under supervision for an extended period after release). These proposals have been published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk

Offenders: Drugs

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 24, *(c)* between 24 and 30 and *(d)* 30 and above received custodial sentences for (i) possession and (ii) supply of cannabis in each of the last 10 years; [36218]

(2) how many people *(a)* under the age of 18, *(b)* between 18 and 24, *(c)* between 24 and 30 and *(d)* 30 and above were (i) reprimanded, (ii) warned and (iii) charged for possession or supply of cannabis in each of the last 10 years. [36222]

Mr Blunt: The number of offenders cautioned (which include reprimands and warnings) and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty and sentenced at all courts for possession or supply of cannabis by age group in England and Wales, 2000 to 2009 (latest available) are in Tables 1 to 3 as follows.

Charging data are not held centrally, proceedings data have been provided in lieu.

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Table 1: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1, 2] and persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, for possession of cannabis[3, 4], by age group, 2000-09[5, 6, 7]

										Number
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008[P]*	*2009*
Aged 10 to 17										
Reprimand/warning	7,017	7,618	8,671	8,654	6,975	6,557	5,847	6,707	7,165	6,344
Proceeded against	3,178	3,747	4,426	4,599	3,391	3,302	3,311	3,935	4,825	5,029
Found guilty	2,810	3,220	3,833	4,087	3,084	3,063	3,062	3,685	4,553	4,708
Sentenced	2,808	3,221	3,833	4,087	3,084	3,062	3,062	3,685	4,552	4,707
Of which:										
Immediate custody	23	26	14	28	21	17	11	7	4	12
Other sentences	2,785	3,195	3,819	4,059	3,063	3,045	3,051	3,678	4,548	4,695
Aged 18 to 24										
Cautioned	16,353	15,086	17,247	17,308	8,438	8,373	8,061	7,893	8,421	7,446
Proceeded against	9,536	9,701	11,322	12,036	5,682	4,921	5,187	5,860	7,357	9,060
Found guilty	8,882	8,952	10,419	11,217	5,135	4,577	4,859	5,635	7,072	8,737
Sentenced	8,902	8,908	10,413	11,180	5,120	4,551	4,818	5,610	7,048	8,648
Of which:										
Immediate custody	140	112	98	108	46	56	57	63	122	145
Other sentences	8,762	8,796	10,315	11,072	5,074	4,495	4,761	5,547	6,926	8,503
Aged 25 to 30										
Cautioned	4,772	4,413	5,251	5,000	2,650	2,764	2,794	2,877	3,154	2,949
Proceeded against	4,484	4,196	4,449	4,718	2,316	2,037	2,117	2,240	2,979	3,976
Found guilty	4,220	3,886	4,062	4,392	2,146	1,879	1,981	2,118	2,873	3,828
Sentenced	4,247	3,892	4,052	4,392	2,143	1,873	1,969	2,099	2,865	3,805
Of which:										
Immediate custody	80	64	46	54	39	24	29	35	47	86
Other sentences	4,167	3,828	4,006	4,338	2,104	1,849	1,940	2,064	2,818	3,719
Aged 31 and over										
Cautioned	4,757	4,680	5,762	6,164	3,293	3,423	3,668	3,770	4,083	3,870
Proceeded against	5,105	5,061	5,779	6,518	3,257	2,780	2,835	2,789	3,541	4,361
Found guilty	4,813	4,694	5,341	6,018	2,955	2,576	2,634	2,635	3,357	4,167
Sentenced	4,842	4,715	5,329	6,006	2,955	2,564	2,603	2,610	3,366	4,124
Of which:										
Immediate custody	118	88	83	98	55	39	44	57	74	77
Other sentences	4,724	4,627	5,246	5,908	2,900	2,525	2,559	2,553	3,292	4,047
All ages										
Cautioned	32,899	31,797	36,931	37,126	21,356	21,117	20,370	21,247	22,823	20,609
Proceeded against	22,303	22,705	25,976	27,871	14,646	13,040	13,450	14,824	18,702	22,426
Found guilty	20,725	20,752	23,655	25,714	13,320	12,095	12,536	14,073	17,855	21,440
Sentenced	20,799	20,736	23,627	25,665	13,302	12,050	12,452	14,006	17,831	21,284
Of which:										
Immediate custody	361	290	241	288	161	136	141	162	247	320

Table 1: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1, 2] and persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts, for possession of cannabis[3, 4], by age group, 2000-09[5, 6, 7]

Number

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[8]	2009
Other sentences	20,438	20,446	23,386	25,377	13,141	11,914	12,311	13,842	17,584	20,964

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Cannabis was classified as a class B drug to January 2004 when it was reclassified as a class C drug. It was then subsequently reclassified as class B from January 2009.

[4] Statutes and corresponding offence descriptions used: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.5(2) as amended by Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008 Having possession of a controlled drug—Cannabis and cannabis resin; Cannabinol; Cannabinol derivatives Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.5(2) Having possession of a controlled drug—Cannabis or cannabis resin.

[5] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[7] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[8] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1, 2] and persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for possession with intent to supply cannabis[3, 4] by age group, 2000-09[5, 6, 7]

Number

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008[8]	2009
Aged 10 to 17										
Reprimand/warning	106	126	148	154	118	138	140	110	86	67
Proceeded against	160	179	197	194	158	175	141	159	194	163
Found guilty	124	122	146	144	132	132	117	128	167	134
Sentenced	124	122	146	144	131	130	118	127	166	132
Of which:										
Immediate custody	16	13	12	5	9	9	10	8	11	5
Other sentences	108	109	134	139	122	121	108	119	155	127
Aged 18 to 24										
Cautioned	106	93	89	127	157	234	212	204	122	93
Proceeded against	764	639	738	841	636	694	663	695	850	972
Found guilty	625	495	527	585	503	427	399	391	544	659
Sentenced	635	508	519	573	485	390	377	354	497	668
Of which:										
Immediate custody	219	186	152	163	163	96	79	85	101	151
Other sentences	416	322	367	410	322	294	298	269	396	517
Aged 25 to 30										
Cautioned	30	26	34	23	40	51	58	43	41	33
Proceeded against	456	354	303	347	253	262	294	270	375	447
Found guilty	416	258	266	253	205	170	168	163	231	279
Sentenced	435	265	267	254	195	172	148	161	211	266
Of which:										
Immediate custody	219	138	135	105	74	62	53	53	63	86
Other sentences	216	127	132	149	121	110	95	108	148	180
Aged 31 and over										
Cautioned	33	40	39	41	69	59	80	66	41	39
Proceeded against	814	627	549	668	478	457	496	490	577	638
Found guilty	662	483	449	488	407	264	273	276	299	381
Sentenced	678	506	451	491	399	258	241	268	268	377
Of which:										
Immediate custody	354	281	248	202	174	105	98	86	88	151
Other sentences	324	225	203	289	225	153	143	182	180	226
All ages										
Cautioned	275	285	310	345	384	482	490	423	290	232
Proceeded against	2,194	1,799	1,787	2,050	1,525	1,588	1,594	1,614	1,996	2,220

Table 2: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1, 2] and persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for possession with intent to supply cannabis[3, 4] by age group, 2000-09[5, 6, 7]

Number

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[8]	*2009*
Found guilty	1,827	1,358	1,388	1,470	1,247	993	957	958	1,241	1,453
Sentenced	1,872	1,401	1,383	1,462	1,210	950	884	910	1,142	1,443
Of which:										
Immediate custody	808	618	547	475	420	272	240	232	263	393
Other sentences	1,064	783	836	987	790	678	644	678	879	1,050

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Cannabis was classified as a class B drug to January 2004 when it was reclassified as a class C drug. It was then subsequently reclassified as class B from January 2009.

[4] Statutes and corresponding offence descriptions used: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.5(3) as amended by Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008 Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—Cannabis and cannabis resin; Cannabinol; Cannabinol derivatives. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.5(3) Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply—Cannabis or cannabis resin.

[5] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[7] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[8] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Table 3: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1, 2] and persons proceeded against at Magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for supply or offering to supply cannabis[3, 4] by age group, 2000-09[5, 6, 7]

Number

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[8]	*2009*
Aged 10 to 17										
Reprimand/warning	153	162	131	124	90	77	58	47	40	35
Proceeded against	84	84	85	81	66	64	50	58	54	40
Found guilty	53	46	59	54	50	48	35	48	42	32
Sentenced	52	46	59	54	50	49	35	49	42	32
Of which:										
Immediate custody	8	2	2	4	3	2	1	2	4	1
Other sentences	44	44	57	50	47	47	34	47	38	31
Aged 18 to 24										
Cautioned	105	57	50	57	49	36	37	48	42	27
Proceeded against	352	270	243	258	207	214	210	218	202	199
Found guilty	290	235	192	183	166	151	138	160	145	158
Sentenced	312	244	193	180	151	132	128	150	127	157
Of which:										
Immediate custody	109	85	78	75	38	39	36	44	32	40
Other sentences	203	159	115	105	113	93	92	106	95	117
Aged 25 to 30										
Cautioned	20	21	10	22	13	14	11	14	8	19
Proceeded against	220	148	167	111	115	76	123	112	107	109
Found guilty	183	113	124	85	80	55	67	64	51	80
Sentenced	192	110	124	88	78	55	55	63	48	82
Of which:										
Immediate custody	94	49	54	39	36	26	16	17	20	30
Other sentences	98	61	70	49	42	29	39	46	28	52
Aged 31 and over										
Cautioned	36	20	25	22	19	26	25	21	23	16
Proceeded against	345	292	263	290	229	234	239	166	198	147
Found guilty	316	219	217	200	160	139	145	95	114	117
Sentenced	314	223	222	192	165	131	134	92	117	121
Of which:										
Immediate custody	194	129	124	104	79	68	48	38	48	65
Other sentences	120	94	98	88	86	63	86	54	69	56

Table 3: Offenders issued with a reprimand, warning, or caution[1, 2] and persons proceeded against at Magistrates' courts, found guilty and sentenced at all courts for supply or offering to supply cannabis[3, 4] by age group, 2000-09[5, 6, 7]

										Number
	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[8]	*2009*
All ages										
Cautioned	314	260	216	225	171	153	131	130	113	97
Proceeded against	1,001	794	758	740	617	588	622	554	561	495
Found guilty	842	613	592	522	456	393	385	367	352	387
Sentenced	870	623	598	514	444	367	352	354	334	392
Of which:										
Immediate custody	405	265	258	222	156	135	101	101	104	136
Other sentences	465	358	340	292	288	232	251	253	230	256

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Cannabis was classified as a class B drug to January 2004 when it was reclassified as a class C drug. It was then subsequently reclassified as class B from January 2009.

[4] Statutes and corresponding offence descriptions used: Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.4(3) as amended by Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008 Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in)—Cannabis and cannabis resin; Cannabinol; Cannabinol derivatives Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.4(3) Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in)—Cannabis and cannabis resin.

[5] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[6] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[7] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty, and committed for sentence at the Crown court, may be sentenced in the following year.

[8] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Offenders: Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* earnable privileges, *(b)* in-cell equipment, *(c)* locally-available privileges and *(d)* other privileges are available at each level of each local Incentive and Earned Privilege scheme in each prison. [36351]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained by contacting individual prison establishments only at disproportionate cost.

The national policy framework set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 4000 Incentives Earned Privileges (available in the Library of the House) gives prison governors authority to devise their own local scheme to meet the needs of the prison regime. Under the national framework, there are six key earnable privileges, which must be included in local IEP scheme when available. The key earnable privileges are: extra and improved visits, eligibility to earn higher rates of pay, access to in-cell television (paid for by the prisoner), opportunity to wear own clothes, access to private cash and time out of cell for association.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will ensure that courts are able to use the extended sentence for public protection to guarantee an appropriate level of post-release supervision under his proposals for reform of indeterminate public protection sentences. [36465]

Mr Blunt: We are conducting an assessment of sentencing to ensure that it is effective in deterring crime, protecting the public, punishing offenders and cutting reoffending. On 7 December 2010 we published proposals in the Green Paper, "Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders", for public consultation. These proposals included the reform of sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection. They have been published on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk

We propose to restrict these sentences to those who merit a minimum term of at least five years in prison. It is proposed that violent and sexual offenders who do not meet the new threshold will be able to receive a long determinate sentence or in appropriate cases an extended sentence (where the offender remains under supervision for an extended period after release). Additionally, there are court orders available to manage the risk of serious sexual and violent offenders whose risk was not considered high enough at the time of conviction for an indefinite sentence, but who appear to present a risk at the end of their sentence.

Offenders: Self-Harm

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to improve supervision for offenders at risk of self-harm. [36466]

Mr Blunt: All prisons have a broad, integrated and evidence-based suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all who live and work in prisons. The strategy encompasses a wide spectrum of prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, drugs, resettlement, leadership and training. A prisoner-focused care planning system for those identified at risk, Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) has helped prisons to manage self-harm.

NOMS has commissioned Oxford university to undertake research that will support our understanding of self-harm in prison. The study will look at some 140,000 recorded incidents of self-harm between 2004-09. The analysis will provide an evidence base to inform the development of more effective mechanisms for identifying, managing and reducing the risk of those prisoners who self-harm.

Prison Sentences

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 279W, on prison sentences, for what offences the convicted individual who received a non-custodial sentence received the 578 previous convictions or cautions. [36540]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows previous offences committed by the convicted individual who received a non-custodial sentence in 2009 and had 578 previous convictions or cautions. Over 180 of these previous convictions resulted in a custodial sentence.

The figures are derived from the data used for table 6.2 of 'Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009' which was published on 21 October 2010.

Table 1: Previous offences committed by the convicted individual who received a non-custodial sentence in 2009 and had 578 previous convictions or cautions

Offence	*Number*
Shoplifting and other theft	300
Drunk and disorderly	131
Public disorder	79
Breach of antisocial behaviour order and breach of bail	18
Criminal damage	14
Assault	9
Burglary, robbery, blackmail	8
Weapon possession offences	4
ABH	1
Other (mainly failing to pay rail fare)	14
Total	578

These figures relate to separate cautioning or sentencing occasions; where this offender was cautioned or sentenced on the same occasion for several offences it is the details of the primary offence that have been presented. The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Prison Service: Hewlett-Packard

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 644-47W, on the Prison Service: Hewlett-Packard, how many *(a)* printers, *(b)* desktop and laptop computers *(c)* desktop telephones, *(d)* mobile telephones and *(e)* pagers there are in each prison. [36425]

Mr Blunt: The terms and conditions of the contract are commercially confidential. The contract expires in less than 18 months.

Prisoner Escapes

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have absconded from *(a)* the prison estate and *(b)* prisons under private management since May 2010; [36248]

(2) how many escapes from *(a)* all prisons and *(b)* prisons under private management there have been since May 2010; [36252]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows details of the number of escapes and absconds from prisons in England and Wales between 1 May 2010 and 31 December 2010.

Table 1: Escapes and absconds from 1 May 2010 and 31 December 2010, from (a) all prisons and (b) prisons under private management.

Incident type	*All prisons*	*Prisons under private management*
Escape	1	0
Abscond	171	0

The following tables show the number of escapes and absconds from 1 April 2007, by financial year. Figures for 2009-10 are provisional and as yet unpublished.

Table 2: Escapes and absconds from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010, by financial year, from all prisons

Incident type	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Escapes	4	1	2
Absconds	513	632	273

Table 3: Escapes and absconds from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010, by financial year, from prisons under private management.

Incident type	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Escapes	0	0	0
Absconds	0	0	0

Data for 2009-10 onwards are provisional figures that have been drawn from live administrative data systems which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale data recording system. Final data may vary from those shown above when formal and approved Ministry of Justice statistics are published.

Escapes refers to key performance indicator escapes.

Prisoners' Release: Reoffenders

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish an assessment of the potential effects on re-offending rates of early release of offenders from prison. [36404]

Mr Blunt: Most prisoners serving determinate sentences are released automatically at the halfway point of their sentence. Those who meet eligibility criteria may be released under home detention curfew.

In 2010 the Ministry of Justice published statistics on proven reoffending for offenders released on Home Detention Curfew (HDC). In 2008-09 out of 11,417 offenders on HDC, 4.6% re-offended while on HDC.

Prisons: Sports

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what equipment was purchased for prison gymnasiums, sports halls and sports complexes in each prison in each year since 2007-08. [36352]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does hold limited data which can be provided relating to the purchase of gym equipment in prisons. Providing my hon. Friend with the information in the format requested would incur a disproportionate cost as locating and consolidating this information at local level would require significant resource within the timescales for submission. We are however able to provide limited information extracted from the MoJ Procurement Directorate.

Since 2007 the NOMS HM Prison Service has contracted with three main suppliers of gym/sports equipment who are Newitts Ltd, Physique plc and Service Sport. Newitts product portfolio consists of mainly light sports equipment, such as rackets, bats, free weights and consumables etc. Physique and Service Sport product ranges mainly consist of gym machines and other light sports equipment. The HM Prison Service where possible purchases remanufactured/refurbished heavy gym equipment. Purchasing equipment is considered the most cost-effective method of procuring those types of goods and where it is possible the HM Prison Service will be continuing with purchasing remanufactured equipment, subject to availability. The MoJ is currently working in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence for the next generation supply framework contract where a collaborative approach will allow the MoJ and MOD to leverage its economies of scale in the market place. This activity is currently being advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union. The framework contract is due for completion in summer 2011.

The net expenditure for those years is as follows:

£

	Financial years			
Suppliers	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Physique	1,060,737	1,795,791	999,520	572,368
Service Sport	516,425	1,290,650	1,397,739	993,464
Newitts	414,753	612,102	541,205	347,915

Referral Fee Income

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the level of referral fee income obtained by insurers from lawyers *(a)* sitting on panels and acting for insurers to defend claims and *(b)* acting for those with claims as a result of road accidents who consult insurers under motor insurance and/or legal expenses policies. [37011]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold the information sought. Chapter 20 of Lord Jackson's report, 'Review of Civil Litigation Costs', published on 14 January 2010, deals with the issue of referral fees and provides examples of fees paid.

Reoffenders: Community Orders

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the rate of reoffending among people who have received community punishments at court in each of the last three years. [36553]

Mr Blunt: The latest reconviction data provided are based on offences committed within one year of an offender commencing a court order under probation supervision.

The following table shows the reconviction rates for offenders sentenced to a court order under probation supervision between January and March in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Adult one-year reconviction rates for offenders commencing a court order in the last three years

Court orders[1]	*Number of offenders*	*Reconviction rate (percentage)*
2006 Q1	35,917	35.4
2007 Q1	37,275	36.1
2008 Q1	37,619	36.1

[1] Court orders include pre-CJA 2003 community sentences, new community orders and suspended sentence orders.

More information on the reconviction rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Tribunals: Equal Pay

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many unsettled equal pay cases have remained in the employment tribunal system in the last *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 30 years. [36420]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not hold complete and reliable data for the financial years previous to 1999-2000. Historical information on the age of outstanding equal pay claims is not available. The live case load for claims which include the equal pay jurisdiction as at 31 December 2010 was 169,900.

The following table gives details of the number of equal pay claims accepted (i.e. received or lodged) and the number that remain to be determined or otherwise disposed of (i.e. the outstanding or live case load).

Number of equal pay claims accepted and outstanding for financial year 1999-2000 to 2009-10

	Total EQP claims accepted	*Total EQP claims outstanding*
1999-2000	4,700	68
2000-01	17,200	5,500
2001-02	8,800	750
2002-03	5,100	250
2003-04	4,400	590
2004-05	8,200	1,200
2005-06	17,300	5,900
2006-07	44,000	30,500
2007-08	62,700	35,700
2008-09	45,700	34,000
2009-10	37,400	32,200
Total	255,500	—

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many equal pay cases went to an employment tribunal in each year since 2000; and in how many such cases the complainant was successful. [36421]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the number of equal pay claims accepted by employment tribunals; and the number of them determined at a hearing where the claimant was successful. The table covers the financial year 2000-01 through to the last year for which we have complete and published information, 2009-10.

Equal Pay claims accepted and disposed of where the claimant was successful in financial year 2000-01 to 2009-10

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Equal pay claims accepted	17,200	8,800	5,100	4,400	8,200	17,300	44,000	62,700	45,700	37,400	262,700
Total disposals	1,600	3,700	1,700	2,200	3,900	11,300	7,900	9,500	20,100	20,100	—
Claims heard by an employment tribunal	99	240	130	110	110	3,900	270	870	180	390	—
Disposed not at tribunal	1,500	3,500	1,600	2,100	3,800	7,400	7,600	8,600	20,000	19,700	—
Total successful disposals	18	160	59	58	20	3700	130	680	38	210	—
At Tribunal	18	160	59	58	20	3700	130	680	36	200	—
Default judgment	—	—	—	—	—	0	5	5	2	9	—

Notes:

1. Heard by tribunal: successful at tribunal; dismissed at preliminary hearing; unsuccessful at tribunal; and default judgment.
2. Disposed not at a tribunal: withdrawn; ACAS conciliated; and struck out (not at a hearing).
3. Default judgments were introduced in October 2004.
4. All figures are rounded independently and therefore may not add to totals.

Source:

ET annual reports.

TREASURY

Banks: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will hold discussions with representatives of the British Bankers' Association for the purposes of encouraging them to assist the social economy sector in Northern Ireland by establishing a funding mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [36997]

Mr Hoban: As the Chancellor stated to the House on 11 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 153-66, we are working with the banks to ensure that they make a greater contribution to regional economies and local communities across the UK. We will provide more detail to the House when the negotiations have been finalised.

As part of the Government's response to the "Financing a Private Sector Recovery" Green Paper, the banks, through the British Bankers' Association Business Finance Taskforce, have committed to a number of actions that will aid local economies and communities. This includes providing enhanced data on lending at a regional level and the establishment of a £1.5 billion equity fund which will help provide finance to the SMEs that form a vital part of many local communities and economies. Further information on the taskforce can be found on the BBA's website:

http://www.bba.org.uk/taskforce

Corporation Tax

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value was of corporation tax losses subject to group relief claims in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [32813]

Mr Gauke: The gross value of group and consortium relief claimed by UK companies (from UK companies) stood at £140 billion in 2007-08 and increased to £155 billion in 2008-09. Results are not yet available for 2009-10.

Group and loss relief policies remain broadly unchanged since the inception of the CT regime in 1965. Group and loss relief are important elements of the corporation tax regime which ensures that companies with similar profits over their life cycle but different patterns of profits and losses over the years, pay broadly the same amounts of tax overall and recognises the economic reality that grouped companies are part of a wider whole. This is balanced, however, with the need for a pragmatic approach to protect tax revenues.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36611]

Justine Greening: HM Treasury is committed to making its full contribution towards the Government's target to reduce central Government carbon emissions by 10% by May 2011. Real-time energy data for HM Treasury's headquarters building at 1 Horse Guards road has been displayed on the Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

since July 2010. During 2010-11, HM Treasury has rationalised its IT infrastructure and reduced power consumption through a move to the use of laptop computers and the consolidation of office printers. It has also been completing the implementation of outstanding Carbon Trust recommendations, which will help deliver efficiency savings. Staff behaviour changes are also being encouraged through the active support of a Green Champions network throughout the organisation.

Departmental Manpower

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 752W, on departmental manpower, how many people were employed in his Department's Devolved Countries Unit in each year for which figures are available. [37110]

Danny Alexander: The Devolved Countries Unit was established in 2008. Staffing levels for the unit since its formation have varied between around five to seven members of staff.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake any studies on the effects of the Asset Management Period cycle on levels of employment within the water industry and its supply chain; and if he will make a statement. [36271]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 26 January 2011]:* As noted by the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon), who has responsibility for the natural environment and fisheries, the price setting process for the water sector is being looked at, both by the regulator Ofwat, and by the Government's review of Ofwat. Additionally, the Infrastructure UK cost study, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/cost_study_technicalnote211210.pdf

examined the impact of investment certainty on infrastructure costs across all infrastructure sectors.

Infrastructure UK is now working on how longer-term investment certainty can improve infrastructure delivery.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 786W, on the European Financial Stability Mechanism, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* legal and *(b)* other written advice received by Treasury Ministers on the application of the European Financial Stability Mechanism to the UK before the meeting of the European Committee at which the Financial Stabilisation Mechanism will be considered. [37126]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers received advice on this issue, including legal advice, as part of the normal process of policy development.

Policy development and information relating to recent policy announcements need a degree of freedom to enable the process to work effectively. The release of information so soon after discussions took place would result in less full and frank discussions in the future, harming the policy formulation and development process.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to revise the alcohol fraud strategy published in 2009. [37279]

Justine Greening: The "Tackling Alcohol Fraud" strategy was implemented from 1 April 2010. An important element within the strategy is the ability to quickly adapt the operational response to combat any changes in fraud. There are therefore no plans to revise the strategy.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the end of the Financial Inclusion Fund; and if he will make a statement. [36866]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 836W, on the Financial Inclusion Fund, what funding he plans to make available after the closure of the Financial Inclusion Fund to ensure that financial exclusion continues to be tackled. [36798]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Fund has always been due to close in March 2010. The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the Financial Inclusion Fund.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

Financial Services: Income

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the gross natural product generated from the financial sector in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [36916]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the most recent estimate of gross national product generated from the financial sector in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (36916).

The Office for National Statistics does not produce regional estimates of Gross National Product (GNP) but it does produce estimates of regional Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA is used in the estimation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is measured at current basic prices and can be derived as follows:

GVA = GDP less taxes on products plus subsidies on products

Regional GVA is broken down by industry sector using the 2003 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC03), the financial industry falls within section J 'financial intermediation'. The most recent estimates of GVA within financial intermediation for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are available in the table below.

Total gross value added

	£ million *2008 Industry J*
England	104,574
Wales	2,305
Scotland	8,501
Northern Ireland	1,422

Source:
Table 1.3, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/GVA_NUTS1.xls

Incentives

Paul Uppal: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will hold discussions with the banking industry for the purposes of encouraging the payment of employee bonuses in the form of shares rather than cash. [36399]

Mr Hoban: The Government have taken robust action to tackle unacceptable bonuses. The Financial Services Authority's Remuneration Code has been revised and new rules came into force on 1 January 2011 covering roughly 2,500 firms throughout the financial services sector. The new rules are significantly tougher than previously and require that at least 50% of a bonus must be paid in shares or other non-cash instruments and held subject to an appropriate retention policy. In addition, significant proportions of any bonus must be deferred and linked to performance and only 20-30% of a bonus can be paid upfront in cash.

International Monetary Fund

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's objectives are for the reform of the International Monetary Fund. [37015]

Mr Hoban: The Chancellor set out his objectives for the reform of the IMF in his statement at the October 2010 IMF Annual Meetings, available at:

http://www.imf.org/external/am/2010/speeches/pr49e.pdf

The Chancellor also discussed the role of the IMF in his recent speech in Paris on 6 January this year, available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/speech_chx_060111.htm

Jurisdiction: Isle of Man

Mr Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to enforce county court judgements against companies registered in the Isle of Man with property holdings in the UK. [30102]

Mr Gauke: The Treasury has not identified a county court judgment in its favour against a company registered in the Isle of Man. In light of this, the Treasury has no plans to enforce any such judgments.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to write to the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay correcting the errors in the letter of 5 November 2010 in response to his letter of 15 September 2010 regarding Mr Jobb Robb. [36094]

Danny Alexander: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 7 October and 18 November 2010 regarding Ford Dunton. [36811]

Justine Greening: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Taxation: Aviation

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to base aviation taxes on passengers on the distance travelled. [36826]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Crawley (Henry Smith) on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 661W.

Taxation: Dogs

Mr Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the sum accruing to the Exchequer from taxation on *(a)* dog food and *(b)* dog treats in each of the last three years. [36716]

Mr Gauke: No such estimates have been made as HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional revenue he expects to raise as a result of the recent increase in the rate of value added tax; and what proportion of that increase he estimates will come from consumer expenditure on petrol. [36994]

Mr Gauke: The estimated total revenue gain from the VAT rate increase on 4 January 2011 is £12.1 billion for 2011-12. Data are not available for the revenue attributable to specific goods and services.

Welfare Tax Credits

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households have had their tax credit awards terminated following failure to renew their awards in each of the last three years; how many of these were subsequently restored; how many were required to repay the full amount of the award; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum amount required in repayment was in each of those years. [37210]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available in the format requested.

For information on the number of tax credit claims ended and the number restored during each of the last three years I refer the hon. Member to the following table:

During year	*Total number of claims ended*	*Total number of claims restored*
2007-08	455,420	223,165
2008-09	465,305	214,556
2009 10	397,998	198,803

The average amount and the maximum repayment amounts are available only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments: Wales

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money was spent on cold weather payments in Wales in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many individuals received cold weather payments in each weather station area. [37248]

Steve Webb: Areas linked to weather stations used in the cold weather payment scheme do not follow country or regional borders. Therefore there are some weather stations located in Wales which also cover areas in England and vice versa. The estimated amount authorised for payment so far this winter for weather stations where the area covered is wholly in Wales is £23.0 million. For weather stations which cover areas that straddle the border the estimated amount authorised for payment so far this winter is £20.7 million (for all areas covered, not just the parts in Wales)[1, 2, 3, 4].

The number of benefit units that have received at least one cold weather payment by weather station in Wales so far this winter are given in the following tables. The tables are split into weather stations covering areas wholly in Wales and weather stations which cover areas that straddle the border.

Weather stations covering areas wholly in Wales for winter 2010-11

Weather station	*Admin area*	*Estimated number of benefit units that have received at least one payment this winter*
Aberporth	Ceredigion	4,800
Capel Curig	Conwy	800
Mona	Isle of Anglesey	13,700
Pembrey Sands	Carmarthenshire	44,300
Rhyl	Denbighshire	17,400
St Athan	Vale of Glamorgan	73,000
Trawsgoed	Ceredigion	3,500
Tredegar	Blaenau Gwent	62,300

Weather stations covering areas in Wales and England for winter 2010-11

Weather station	*Admin area*	*Estimated number of benefit units that have received at least one payment this winter*
Filton	South Gloucestershire	61,000
Hawarden Airport	Flintshire	27,600
Hereford-Credenhill	Herefordshire	57,400
Lake Vyrnwy	Powys	5,500
Sennybridge	Powys	4,900
Shawbury	Shropshire	26,100

Notes:

1. The admin area gives the location of the weather station and not necessarily the area the weather station covers. For example, Lake Vyrnwy weather station is located in Powys, but does not cover all of Powys. Lake Vyrnwy weather station also covers some postcodes in England.
2. Cold weather payments are made to benefit units. A benefit unit can be a single person or a couple and can include children.
3. Some benefit units have received more than one payment this winter.
4. Estimated numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions records of triggers notified up to and including 27 January 2011 and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station.

[1] The information provided is Management Information. Our preference is to answer all parliamentary questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have management information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, figures given are estimates. Actuals are not available.

[2] A cold weather payment is made to an eligible customer when the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0°C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode. (When the temperature criterion is met, the weather station is said to trigger.)

[3] It is not possible to calculate a total estimated amount authorised for payment in Wales for the weather stations that straddle the border.

[4] *Source:*

Department for Work and Pensions records of triggers notified up to and including 27 January 2011 and estimates of potential qualifiers by weather station.

Departmental Statistics

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which models his Department uses to analyse levels of *(a)* employment, *(b)* unemployment, *(c)* jobseeker's allowance (JSA) caseload and *(d)* expenditure on JSA. [37085]

Chris Grayling: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes official labour market statistics on a monthly basis. These statistics include employment, unemployment, jobseeker's allowance (JSA) caseload and the average weekly payment of JSA.

Modelling of overall employment, unemployment and the JSA claimant count is conducted by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). Internal modelling of these for business planning purposes is based on these forecasts.

Expenditure forecasts are produced by multiplying the OBR claimant count by the average amount of weekly benefit paid to each individual.

Disability Living Allowance

Margaret Curran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of current recipients of disability living allowance who will be eligible to receive the personal independence payment in 2014-15. [37278]

Maria Miller: The proposed personal independence payment will be for those with the assessed level of need. The detailed criteria that will be used in the new assessment to determine eligibility for the rates of the benefit are currently being developed and a consultation process is also under way.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by how much he expects spending on contributory employment and support allowance to be reduced by time limiting to 12 months in the first year of the reduction; and what the figure would be if time limiting was *(a)* six months, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years and *(d)* four years. [33960]

Maria Miller: The latest departmental spending estimates are contained in the Office for Budget Responsibility's economic and fiscal outlook—announced in the Autumn Statement. In this statement it was estimated that time limiting contributory employment and support allowance to one year for those in the Work Related Activity Group would reduce overall benefit expenditure by around £850 million in 2012-13. This includes reductions to expenditure on contributory ESA net of expected costs to income-related ESA and other DWP administered benefits.

The estimated costs or savings from changing the period of the time limit are shown in the following table:

Net benefit savings in 2012-13

Period of time limit	*£ million*
Six months	1,200
One year	850
Two years	350
Three years	200
Four years	50

Note:
Figures are in cash terms, and are for Great Britain. They are rounded to the nearest £50 million.

These cost estimates are consistent with those made for the Autumn Statement. They are subject to change as the underlying models are being constantly improved to incorporate as much evidence as possible. A full impact assessment, including the most up to date costs and savings for the policy, will be published alongside the Welfare Reform Bill.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the evidential basis is for his proposal that 12 months should be the maximum period for claimants in the work-related activity group to receive contributory employment and support allowance. [36247]

Maria Miller: We are introducing a time limit of 12 months for entitlement to contributory employment and support allowance for claimants in the Work Related Activity Group. The period of 12 months was chosen because it strikes the best balance between allowing people with longer-term conditions to adjust to their health condition and providing a level of access that is appropriate for contributory benefits. Around 60% of all those claiming ESA already come off this benefit within a year[1]. We will be putting in place significant additional employment support through the Work programme.

ESA has always been intended to be a temporary benefit for those in the Work Related Activity Group. It is important that we rebalance the benefit system so that it is fair to recipients as well as being affordable to the taxpayer.

Those in the Support Group, who have the most severe health conditions or disabilities, are not affected by this measure. Customers in the Work Related Activity Group whose entitlement to contributory ESA ends after 12 months will be able to claim income-related ESA if they are eligible.

[1] *Source:*
Department for Work and Pensions Tabulation Tool.

Housing Benefit

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of reductions in housing benefit payments on rent levels in the private sector. [35062]

Steve Webb: In July last year, the Department published a document on "Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12", which includes analysis at the local authority level, and a separate equality impact assessment. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

The Department published a full impact assessment for the 2011-12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements in November 2010. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

We expect landlords to reduce rents as a result of reductions to local housing allowance rates. To support this drive, we are temporarily extending local authority discretion to pay benefit direct to landlords who agree to reduce the rent to a level that is affordable to a person claiming housing benefit.

The Department is intending to commission independent, external research to evaluate the impact of the housing benefit measures. The precise form will depend upon the resources that are available, but we anticipate that it will include fieldwork examining the effects on different types of households in a range of areas across Great Britain.

Housing Benefit: Unemployment

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the number of people expected to be affected by the planned changes in housing benefit for the long-term unemployed in determining the policy cost estimate in the June 2010 Budget. [33499]

Steve Webb: We will publish an equality impact assessment for the proposed changes to housing benefit announced at Budget 2010 to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Incapacity Benefit: Brighton and Hove

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the city of Brighton and Hove and *(b)* the UK received incapacity benefit in each year since 2007. [36334]

Maria Miller: The information is as follows:

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in Brighton and Hove local authority and Great Britain: in each May since 2007

As at May each year	*Brighton and Hove LA*	*Great Britain*
2007	12,960	2,685,320
2008	13,010	2,637,560
2009	11,840	2,374,210
2010	10,860	2,126,690

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures do not include employment support allowance (ESA) which was introduced in October 2008 for new claimants.
3. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, ie 'credits only cases'.
4. DWP does not hold statistics for Northern Ireland residents. These may be obtained from the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland website.
5. The data provided are published at
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Alison McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2011, *Official Report,* columns 1015-16W, on jobseeker's allowance, if he will publish his Department's projection of the *(a)* jobseeker's allowance claimant count, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance claimant counted aged 16 to 24 years old, *(c)* average weekly jobseeker's allowance payment and *(d)* average weekly jobseeker's allowance payments to those claimants aged 16 to 24 years old in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [37086]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not produce forecasts of unemployment. The Department produces projections for business planning purposes which are aligned to the overall independent claimant count forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) as part of the autumn forecast.

The information available is shown in the following table.

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
OBR claimant count (UK, thousand)	1,490	1,410	1,300	1,210
Projected 16-24 case load (GB, thousand)	351	318	294	279
Average payment (£ per week)	62.71	64.20	65.78	67.07

Notes:
1. Claimant count figures represent an average point-in-time case load for each financial year.
2. Figures are subject to a significant degree of uncertainty.

Sources:
OBR.
DWP internal planning.

The Department does not make any projection of the average benefit payment for 16 to 24-year-olds.

These figures do not take into account any effect from the Work programme.

Maternity Pay

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether, under his proposals for parental leave, employees will be permitted to continue to recoup statutory maternity pay if a mother returns to work but takes a period of annual leave immediately after maternity leave. [36164]

Maria Miller: The Government are committed to encourage shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy—including the promotion of a system of flexible parental leave. It is important that we make sure that any new system balances the needs of families and those who employ them. We will be consulting widely in due course to give family groups, individual workers and employers the opportunity to help us get this right.

Pensioners: Income

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on pensioner incomes of the change from the retail prices index to the consumer prices index for indexation. [37068]

Steve Webb: The effect on a pensioner's income of the change to using the consumer price index (CPI) for indexation will depend on the composition of that income, i.e. the pensions and benefits they receive.

For occupational pension recipients, the change to their occupational pension income will be dependent upon the type of scheme that they are in and the rules of that scheme. Additional pension recipients will be likely to see lower increases in additional pension as a result of using the CPI for indexation rather than the retail price index (RPI).

As an illustration, where the RPI shows growth of one percentage point above the CPI, a pensioner in receipt of £70 a week in affected income—e.g. made up of any combination of additional pension, an affected occupational pension or an affected benefit—could see a 70p per week difference in the increase applied to that income. This may be offset by increased entitlement to an income-related benefit.

It is important to see this change in the context of the more generous increases to the basic state pension which, under a 'triple guarantee' announced by the Government, will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, CPI or 2.5%. In 2011-12 only, it is proposed that an increase by the retail prices index will be given to the basic state pension.

The lifetime net contributory state pension income gain from both policies is around £10,000, in net present value terms.

Poverty: Children

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what analysis his Department has undertaken on the role of child maintenance in tackling child poverty; and if he will make a statement. [33281]

Maria Miller: Analysis carried out by the Department shows that child maintenance payments are estimated to have a small, non-reportable, impact on the number of children in relative income poverty.

This is because statutory child maintenance payments to children living on or near the poverty line involve moving relatively small amounts of money between families. These payment levels do not have a reportable impact on lifting children out of poverty.

For those individual households however, where child maintenance provides parents with a stable income stream, it can make a real difference to the lives of children in poor households.

We are committed to addressing child poverty and improving children's life chances and we believe that all families should receive the child maintenance that they are due. Beyond actual child maintenance payments, evidence indicates that ongoing involvement of both parents in children's lives is better for children on a range of outcomes. This is why supporting parents to make family-based arrangements for maintenance is absolutely central to our proposals for reforming the child maintenance system.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the net effect on the state pension of a person of average income who reaches state retirement age in 2011 of the implementation of *(a)* the triple guarantee and *(b)* the use of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index for indexation; [37003]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect on the second state pension of a person of average income who reaches state retirement age in 2011 of the use of the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index for pension indexation. [37004]

Steve Webb: The estimated net contributory state pension income effects on a person with an average state pension entitlement reaching state pension age in the 2011-12 tax year are as follows:

(a) A lifetime net gain in basic state pension income of around £15,000, in net present value terms, due to the effect of the triple guarantee.

(b) A lifetime net loss in additional state pension income of around £5,000, in net present value terms, due to the switch to CPI indexation.

The lifetime net contributory state pension income gain from both policies is around £10,000, in net present value terms.

Notes:

1. The calculation is based on projected median state pension entitlement for individuals reaching state pension age in the 2011-12 tax year. This includes basic state pension entitlement, plus additional state pension entitlement (State Earnings Related Pension Scheme and state second pension), assuming no deductions due to periods spent in contracted-out employment.

2. The calculation excludes entitlement deriving from a former spouse's or partner's contributions, and assumes the individual does not defer claiming their state pension. Entitlement to graduated retirement benefit is not included.

3. Figures are net present values of the policies over the length of a retirement.

4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

5. The effects on basic state pension income and additional state pension income are both calculated relative to counterfactual policies of RPI indexation.

6. The estimates assume a length of retirement of 25 years after the year in which the person reaches state pension age.

7. Net contributory state pension income is income from basic state pension and additional state pension (excluding graduated retirement benefit).

State Retirement Pensions: Females

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his estimate is of the change in the average monthly income for women born between 6 March and 5 April 1954 as a result of the new timetable for equalising state pension age in each month of the period when they would have reached state retirement age under the previous timetable; [37392]

(2) what his estimate is of the financial effect on a woman for whom the state retirement age increases by two years under the new timetable for equalising the state pension age; [37393]

(3) what his estimate is of the financial effect on a woman for whom the state retirement age increases by 18 months or more under the new timetable for equalising the state pension age; [37394]

Steve Webb: The overall financial effect of these changes is complex and will vary significantly from person to person. This makes it difficult to generalise about the impact of the changes on individuals.

The impact will depend on a range of factors, including the amount of state pension they would otherwise have received, their eligibility for in-work benefits such as jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and employment support allowance (ESA), the income and characteristics of their wider household, and their level of savings.

In addition, many of these women will remain in employment, and could therefore benefit from additional earnings and from additional accrual of pension rights.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humber, *(b)* East Midlands, *(c)* North East, *(d)* East of England, *(e)* London, *(f)* South East, *(g)* South West, *(h)* West Midlands, *(i)* North West, *(j)* Scotland, *(k)* Wales and *(l)* Northern Ireland whose state pension age will increase by exactly two years under the proposed new timetable for the state pension age. [37405]

Steve Webb: The effect on the level of income is complex and will vary significantly between individuals. Because of the revision in life expectance projections, women retiring at 66 in 2020 will, on average, be getting their state pension for about the same length of time (24 years) as the previous life expectancy projections implied for a state pension age of 64 in 2018.

The Department's estimates, made on the basis of the mid-2009 ONS population estimates, of the approximate number of women whose state pension age will increase by exactly two years are set out in the following table:

	Thousand
Yorkshire and Humber	3
East midlands	2
North-east	1
East of England	3
London	3
South-east	5
South-west	3
West midlands	3
North-west	4
Scotland	3
Wales	2
Northern Ireland	1

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humber, *(b)* East Midlands, *(c)* North East, *(d)* East of England, *(e)* London, *(f)* South East, *(g)* South West, *(h)* West Midlands, *(i)* North West, *(j)* Scotland, *(k)* Wales and *(l)* Northern Ireland whose state pension age will increase by more than 18 months under the proposed new timetable for the state pension age. [37406]

Steve Webb: The effect on the level of income is complex and will vary significantly between individuals. Because of the revision in life expectance projections, women retiring at 66 in 2020 will, on average, be getting their state pension for about the same length of time (24 years) as the previous life expectancy projections implied for a state pension age of 64 in 2018.

The Department's estimates, made on the basis of the mid-2009 ONS population estimates, of the approximate number of women whose state pension age will increase by more than 18 months are set out in the following table.

	Thousand
Yorkshire and Humber	21
East midlands	19
North-east	11
East of England	24
London	25
South-east	35
South-west	23
West midlands	22
North-west	29
Scotland	23
Wales	13
Northern Ireland	7

Unemployed People: Dyslexia

Mr Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the extent of discrimination against *(a)* dyslexic people in the workplace and *(b)* unemployed dyslexic people who are seeking work. [35450]

Maria Miller: My Department has made no assessment of the extent of discrimination faced by people with dyslexia in the workplace, or by unemployed people with dyslexia who are seeking work.

The employment provisions of the Equality Act 2010 (EA) provide protection from disability discrimination for disabled workers and disabled job applicants. The EA generally defines a disabled person as someone who has a mental or physical impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Therefore a person whose dyslexia has these effects would be protected by the Act from discrimination.

Universal Credit

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether *(a)* statutory sick pay, *(b)* maternity pay and *(c)* maternity allowance will be treated as earnings when assessing eligibility for universal credit. [36654]

Maria Miller: Final decisions have not yet been made. However, it may be logical to treat payments such as statutory sick pay and statutory maternity pay in the same way as earnings as they are paid by employers. We will be looking further at this issue and the implications such an approach might have for the treatment of maternity allowance.

Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on winter fuel payments to UK citizens living in *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* outside the EU in each of the last three years. [36933]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payments are paid to former UK residents living in the European economic area (EEA) and Switzerland if they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK. In all cases, this represents less than 1% of the total expenditure on winter fuel payments.

Expenditure on winter fuel payments paid to people living outside the United Kingdom over the three most recent years for which information is available is shown in the following table.

Winter fuel payments expenditure on recipients living outside the UK

			£ million
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
EEA/Switzerland	9.0	13.5	15.2
Of which			
EU	9.0	13.5	15.1
Non-EU	0.0	0.4	0.1

Notes:

1. Expenditure has been rounded to the nearest £100,000 and the breakdown may not sum to the total due to this rounding.

2. The distribution of the different levels of payment in the European Union is assumed to be the same as that for the European economic area, as country-level information about distribution of payment amounts is not available.

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aerospace Industry: Immigration Rules

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the competitiveness and financial stability of the aerospace industry of the changes to immigration rules to take effect in April 2011; [37135]

(2) what discussions he has had with the aerospace industry on the effects on them of changes to immigration rules to take effect in April 2011; and if he will make a statement. [37138]

Mr Prisk: A number of companies have expressed views on restrictions on employing skilled non-EU migrants. These include a small number of our larger aerospace companies, who have advised us of their discussions with officials in my Department, the UK Border Agency and the Migration Advisory Committee on this matter. One of these aerospace companies raised it directly with me last September.

The Department consulted widely with all sectors of industry during the development of the policy to limit non EU economic migration.

The changes that have been announced will leave intra-company transfers (ICTs) outside of the limit and prioritise skilled migrants.

Business: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding local economic partnerships will be able to provide to develop new partnerships between business and higher education institutions; and if he will make a statement. [36637]

Mr Prisk: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

No central Government spending has been allocated specifically to fund the activities of local enterprise partnerships. As set out in the White Paper on Local Growth local enterprise partnerships will be expected to fund their own day-to-day running costs and will also want to consider how they can obtain the best value for public money by leveraging in private sector investment. Local enterprise partnerships and proposed partnerships may also wish to submit bids to the Regional Growth Fund or European Funding. It is for local authorities to decide how much of their discretionary spending they allocate to local enterprise partnerships.

Defence: Industry

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to publish a defence industry strategy plan. [37291]

Mr Davey: I do not have any plans to publish a defence industry strategic plan.

The UK Government published 'Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review' in October 2010. This document sets out the UK Government's decision on its defence, security, intelligence, resilience, development and foreign affairs capabilities in the round. It sets a clear target for the national security capabilities the UK will need by 2020 and charts a course for getting there.

In December 2010, following on from the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, the hon. Member for Mid Worcestershire (Peter Luff), who has responsibility for defence equipment and support, and the Minister of State responsible for security and counter-terrorism initiated a formal consultation by the publication of a Green Paper on how the UK Government should acquire equipment, support and technology for UK defence and security. This consultation is wide ranging but it seeks to consider how the Government can ensure that the UK creates and retains the skills necessary to support essential national security capabilities and to what extent it should take wider economic considerations into account when taking decisions about fulfilling its defence and security requirements. My officials are working with those from the Ministry of Defence on these issues. I am also engaging on these issues through the National Defence Industries Council. The consultation which ends on 31 March is part of the process of developing a White Paper on these issues to be published in 2011.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34826]

Mr Davey: The Department's facilities contractors currently employ 88 staff who are not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage.

Departmental Regulation

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a list of the deregulatory measures his Department has taken since May 2010. [37294]

Mr Davey: Since May 2010 the Department has not yet revoked any significant regulatory measures. However, we have launched a review of employment law, and are conducting a major fundamental review scrutinising the overall stock of BIS regulation, alongside legacy measures inherited from the previous Administration. The Home Office are leading on the Protection of Freedoms Bill due to be announced in February 2011, which will include a number of proposed repeals of primary and secondary legislation that have been identified as unnecessary.

Economic Growth

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made on his strategy for business growth in the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [37292]

Mr Prisk: The Government's strategy for stimulating private sector growth was set out in 'The path to strong, sustainable and balanced growth', published on 29 November. The first phase of the Growth Review, launched in the paper, will report at Budget 2011.

English Language: Higher Education

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of all students enrolled in English-language higher education courses outside their home country who studied in the UK in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 1999-2000. [37043]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is not available.

EU High-Level Group of Member States: Social Responsibility

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who has represented his Department at meetings of the EU High-Level Group of Member States representatives on corporate social responsibility. [36546]

Mr Davey: BIS officials will be meeting with European Commission representatives from the High-Level Group in February to discuss EU developments on corporate social responsibility and facilitate future engagement at the EU level.

No officials from the Department attended the most recent meeting of the High-Level Group on 19 January 2010. Officials from BIS or other Government Departments will represent the UK at future meetings of the High-Level Group as necessary, according to the specific policy issues which have been tabled for discussion.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria the Export Credits Guarantee Department uses to decide whether a project which it supports requires a sovereign counter-guarantee from the importing country's Government. [35731]

Mr Davey: When ECGD is asked to provide its support for an export transaction where the buyer is a Ministry or Department of the central Government it would be usual to seek a sovereign guarantee of payment that commits the full faith and credit of the sovereign Government to honour its debt obligations. Sovereign guarantees of payment may also be sought where the buyer is a publicly owned entity in circumstances when ECGD judges that such security is necessary and it is available. ECGD does not normally seek sovereign guarantees of payment for export transactions involving private buyers or where it takes project risk involving limited recourse financing structures.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the end of the Financial Inclusion Fund on the number of centres in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands providing debt advice. [36839]

Mr Davey: The Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) has always been due to close in March 2011. The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the FIF. In the meantime, my officials have worked with the projects involved to understand the potential scale of any redundancies and taken steps to ensure that any redundancy costs can be met from project funds rather than affecting the viability of the organisations affected.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students normally resident in each parliamentary constituency entered university in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [36859]

Mr Willetts: The number of entrants from each parliamentary constituency in the United Kingdom to UK higher education institutions are shown in the table, for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 which can be found in the Libraries of the House. Figures are based on updated postcode information and are, therefore, not comparable with constituency level data which may have been published previously. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012. Information on entrants to higher education courses at further education colleges is not available at constituency level.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pupils in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency in receipt of free school meals entered higher education in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [37304]

Mr Willetts: Latest available figures show 25 pupils who attended maintained schools in Blackpool local authority and had previously received free school meals aged 15, had progressed to Higher Education by age 19 in 2007/08. Figures are not available by parliamentary constituency. Data for the 2008/09 academic year will be available later this year.

Higher Education: Economic Situation

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the contribution to the economy of postgraduate education; and if he will make a statement. [36861]

Mr Willetts: Professor Sir Adrian Smith's Postgraduate Review from 2010 (One Step Beyond: Making the most of the postgraduate education sector) found that the advanced knowledge and capability of postgraduates were highly prized by business and the public sector. The report noted that the skills of postgraduates, especially researchers, are critical for tackling major business challenges and driving innovation and growth. The UK's ability to provide people skilled to this level is an important factor in attracting global businesses to locate high-value operations in this country.

The value of postgraduate education to all areas of the UK economy has also been recognised by a number of other sources. For example, the Royal Society's report "The Scientific Century" (2010) suggested that, while many graduates move out of research following a PhD in a scientific, or closely related, subject, they go on to use their skills to considerable economic and wider benefit, through employment within a large range of sectors.

Higher Education: Further Education

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish an assessment of the potential effects of fluctuations in the number of students entering higher and further education on the funding levels of institutions. [36405]

Mr Willetts: From next academic year (2011/12), funding allocations for 16 to 18-year-olds will be based on the equivalent of lagged pupil numbers. Individual statements will be sent to each 16 to18 provider by the Young People's Learning Agency at the end of January, which will detail the number of learners they will be funded for in 2011/12 and the make up of those learners. These statements will not include detail on the funding individual providers will receive because the funding rates for schools and colleges will need to be finalised as part of the allocations process taking into account projected national student volumes. The base rate of funding will be announced as part of this process and final funding allocations are due to be completed by 31 March 2011.

Should the volume of 16 to 18-year-old learners be greater than projected and individual providers recruit more learners than they have been funded for in year, this growth will be consolidated as part of next year's allocations process for which providers will be funded in 2012/13.

With regard to adult skills (19 and over), 'Investing Skills for Sustainable Growth' was published on 16 November 2010. In the 2011-12 financial year, we plan to invest £3.9 billion in further education (FE) and skills for post-19 learners. Within this envelope of resource, institutions have the freedom and flexibility to plan their provision to meet the needs of learners, employers and communities.

The current Statistical First Release was published on 16 November 2010 including information on learner participation and achievement for both 16 to 18 and 19+ further education and skills from 2005/6 to 2008/09, as well as provisional data for 2009/10.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will announce its provisional allocations to institutions in March for academic year 2011/12, based on the resources allocated in its grant letter issued in December. For subsequent years we do not have robust data on which to make such as assessment down to institutional level. University income is made up of a number of funding streams from public, private and charitable sources. In terms of public funding our reforms to higher education will shift the balance of resources for teaching from direct grant to institutions to funding that follows the choices made by individual students. This will provide strong incentives for institutions to focus on providing high quality teaching as efficiently as possible. Over time, popular and successful institutions will be able to grow and we expect new providers to enter the sector providing they can offer teaching to the high standards students will expect. We do not expect the overall income of the sector to reduce and we expect improved teaching quality and better informed students to have a positive impact on the economy. Overall we expect the number of university students to remain at current levels.

Higher Education: Standards

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 108W, on higher education: standards, what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the contract between the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in maintaining academic standards and quality; and if he will make a statement. [36860]

Mr Willetts: I have made no assessment of the effectiveness of the contract itself, which is the mechanism through which the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) delivers its statutory responsibility to provide for the assessment of the quality of education provided in institutions that it funds. Individual higher education institutions are responsible for maintaining their own academic standards and quality. QAA checks how well individual higher education institutions meet those responsibilities. In our recent grant letter to HEFCE, the Secretary of State and I reaffirmed our commitment to a regime that is built around assuring and improving the experience of the student. We stressed the importance of HEFCE's work with the sector and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, in ensuring that strong quality assurance arrangements are in place for the start of the 2011/12 academic year. I continue to keep in touch with that process. For the future, as stated in my earlier reply, we have already announced our intention to publish a Higher Education White Paper covering a wide range of long-term issues.

Higher Education: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students normally resident in Sunderland and entering higher education between 1997 and 2010 qualified for financial assistance from his Department. [36411]

Mr Willetts: The number of full-time, higher education students from Sunderland who applied and qualified for financial support between academic years 2004/05 and 2010/11 is as follows. Comparable figures for earlier years are not available.

Academic year	*Number of students*[1,2,3]
2004/05	3,840
2005/06	3,890
2006/07	4,080
2007/08	4,110
2008/09	4,390
2009/10	4,510
2010/11 (provisional)	4,310

[1] Number of student finance continuing and aspiring students eligible and awarded to full-time student support.

[2] Count of continuing and aspiring students based on Sunderland postcodes.

[3] Figures are rounded to the closest 10.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Manufacturing Industries

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the outcomes were of his recent manufacturing summit; and if he will make a statement. [37293]

Mr Prisk: Over 130 attendees from industry participated in the Manufacturing summit I hosted on 25 January to discuss how to work together to promote manufacturing excellence and challenge perceptions of the industry.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and I emphasised the importance this Government attach to manufacturing for achieving the balanced, sustainable growth essential for our economy. We also highlighted the need to tackle the outdated image of manufacturing that hinders its ability to attract the best talent. To address this challenge, we are asking UK businesses manufacturing cutting-edge products to throw open their doors for a day to students and teachers.

Breakout sessions, chaired by Ministers, focused on understanding the key barriers to growth and identifying solutions where industry can work with Government. Outcomes from these sessions will feed into the advanced manufacturing strand of the Government's Growth Review, which will announce policy proposals at Budget 2011.

New Businesses and Job Creation

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effect of *(a)* the removal of assisted area grants and *(b)* the ending of regional development agencies on (i) attracting businesses to weaker local economies and (ii) job creation. [36040]

Mr Prisk: The Government are taking a new approach to local growth that was presented in the Local Growth White Paper (Cm 7961) presented to Parliament on 28 October 2010. This will *(a)* shift power to local businesses and communities; *(b)* create the right conditions for growth and prosperity by promoting efficient and dynamic markets and (c) support focused investment that will have a long term impact on growth.

This fundamental re-thinking of local growth has led to the implementation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) that has different objectives and criteria to the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme (which is now considering applications on an exceptional basis only). RGF support will be much larger—it has £1.4 billion over three years at its disposal compared to total GBI expenditure of £54 million in 2009/10—and focused to support those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth. During the first round of the RGF over 400 applications have been received from businesses and local communities around England.

An assessment of the impact of the abolition of the regional development agencies (RDAs) will be made in the impact assessment accompanying the Public Bodies Bill. This will also consider the impact of the Government's proposals on job creation and attracting businesses to weaker local economies.

Observatories: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on astronomy in the UK of the decision of the Science and Technology Facilities Council to withdraw funding from optical and infrared astronomical observatories in the northern hemisphere. [37132]

Mr Willetts: In accordance with the Haldane Principle, detailed decisions on support for astronomy research are a matter for the Science and Technology Facilities Council in consultation with the research community.

Overseas Students: EU Nationals

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 109W, on overseas students: EU nationals, what the mechanisms are which his Department has in place to recover loans from *(a)* EU and *(b)* other students who move abroad; and if he will make a statement. [36858]

Mr Willetts: Student loans in England are only available to those who meet the relevant residence requirements. The Student Loans Company (SLC) applies the same mechanisms to all borrowers who move overseas after leaving their course.

When borrowers move abroad, whether temporarily or because they live in another country, they must give the SLC information about their location and earnings. SLC will determine whether the borrower should be making repayments and if so, gives them a monthly repayment schedule under the terms of the contract of the loan. The SLC will convert the income into pounds sterling and tell the borrower the amount they will need to pay each month in pounds sterling.

Where borrowers move overseas and do not notify the SLC, they may be charged penalties which will be added to the outstanding loan amount. They may also have to pay the costs of any trace agents employed by SLC. In some circumstances, they may have to repay the full outstanding amount in a single payment.

Effective collection of student loans across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the SLC to obtain judgments in UK courts which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries. Borrowers who choose to disregard their obligation will be pursued by SLC and where appropriate, court orders will be sought.

Parental Leave

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether, under his proposals for parental leave, a mother who returns to work in order for her partner to take additional paternity leave and pay will lose any keeping-in-touch days. [36163]

Mr Davey: Additional paternity leave and pay has effect for parents of children due on or after 3 April 2011. A mother's entitlement to keeping-in-touch days is not affected by her partner taking additional paternity leave and pay.

A consultation will be launched in due course to explore proposals for a more flexible system of parental leave, aimed at encouraging shared parenting.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether, under his proposals for parental leave, a mother who takes a period of annual leave immediately after maternity leave will be classed as having returned to work for the purposes of starting additional paternity leave and pay. [36165]

Mr Davey: A return to work for the purposes of additional paternity leave and pay, which has effect for parents of children due on or after 3 April 2011, is classified as a mother having ended any entitlement to maternity leave and any entitlement to statutory maternity pay or maternity allowance by working as an employed or self-employed earner.

A consultation will be launched in due course to explore proposals for a more flexible system of parental leave, aimed at encouraging shared parenting.

Postal Services: Fraud

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the prevention of mail scams targeted on vulnerable and elderly people. [36854]

Mr Davey: Combating scams is a priority area for the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) whose staff will look into any mailings that are considered to be scams. Scams can be reported to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) through Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06 or by visiting:

www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/reportascam

Government advises people to be very wary of any unsolicited offers which sound too good to be true, as they often are. And, in those cases where material is received through the postal system which is believed to promote a scam or fraud, recipients should report their suspicions to relevant bodies (for example, the Office of Fair Trading, Consumer Direct, local authority Trading Standards services, the Advertising Standards Authority, respective trade association or consumer body, and/or the police) for investigation and any appropriate action.

Royal Mail are working closely with the police and other bodies on ways of combating postal scams, with the aim of preventing scam mail getting into the postal system in the first place.

Regional Growth Fund

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria are applied to assess bids to the Regional Growth Fund; what comparative weight is attached to each criterion; and whether there have been any changes to such *(a)* criteria and *(b)* comparative weighting in the last three months. [36995]

Mr Prisk: The criteria that will be used to assess bids to the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) are set out in a guidance document, 'Information for Applicants', which is available on the RGF website:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/regional/docs/r/10-1222-regional-growth-fund-information-for-applicants.pdf

in which there is a section on assessment criteria, which details the five criteria that will be used to assess bids:

Sustainable private sector jobs and growth (RGF objective 1);
rebalancing the economy (RGF objective 2);
additionality;
value for money;
state aid compliance.

These criteria have not changed and are not weighted.

These criteria will be applied through all bidding rounds, including the first round.

Bids to the first round can either be in the form of a project, or as a package of projects. This will be supplemented by programme bids from round two onwards. This approach was set out in the Local Growth White Paper (28 October 2010) and has been on the RGF website since that date.

In December the information for applicants was changed slightly to improve clarity and provide data on the location metrics that the fund would be using to assess the location, this did not affect the fund's criteria. This was communicated on the RGF website and at the RGF road shows.

Regional Growth Fund: Applications

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms he uses to inform prospective applicants to the Regional Growth Fund of the criteria which will be used to appraise bids; and whether prospective applicants have been informed of any changes to such criteria or to any comparative weighting attached to them. [36996]

Mr Prisk: The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) was launched on 28 October 2010, on that date the RGF website went live, and from when it started it has hosted guidance for applicants, which has included the criteria that will be used to assess bids. The information on the website was supplemented by a series of RGF roadshows, which ran workshops on bid appraisal.

The criteria are not weighted.

Royal Academy of Engineering

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions officials in his Department had with the Royal Academy of Engineering on the development of a new diversity programme in engineering and the wider science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce to widen participation among under-represented groups prior to his Department's publication of The Allocation of Science and Research Funding, URN 10/1356. [36856]

Mr Willetts: The diversity programme formed part of the Department's discussions with the Royal Academy of Engineering about their delivery plan for 2011-12 to 2014-15, which BIS considered during the allocations process.

Funding for individual programmes is still being discussed. We expect to conclude these discussions shortly, and the detailed delivery plan will then be published on the Academy's website.

Royal Mail: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the effects on the Post Office network in Livingston constituency of his decision not to introduce legislative proposals to require an inter-business agreement between a privatised Royal Mail company and the Post Office network. [36993]

Mr Davey: Royal Mail and the Post Office are natural partners with a strong existing commercial relationship. The chief executive of Royal Mail has said that

> "it is unthinkable that we would ever have anything but the very strong relationship that we have now with the Post Office."

The Government do not consider that inserting into the Postal Services Bill a requirement for Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd to have a commercial agreement in place would provide additional security for the post office network. Indeed legislating for an exclusive contract between the two companies would introduce a significant risk of challenge under competition or state aid law that could present a serious threat to the operation of the post office network.

Royal Mail: Standards

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Royal Mail on the clearance of backlogs of mail and parcels. [36855]

Mr Davey: Mail delivery is an operational matter for the Royal Mail.

I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Moya Greene, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Vocational Guidance: Advisory Services

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism he has put in place to safeguard the *(a)* staff and *(b)* infrastructure of the Next Steps and Connexions services in the transition to the proposed all-age careers service in the academic year 2011-12. [37069]

Mr Hayes: The responsibility for the staff and infrastructure of existing Connexions services lies with individual local authorities (LAs) or the providers that have contracted with local authorities to deliver Connexions services. During the transition period we will support LAs to work through any changes that may be necessary in local service provision as a result of the establishment of the all-age service, involving, where appropriate, Connexions service providers. The responsibility for Next Step staff rests with the Next Step prime contractors.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which stakeholders were consulted on *(a)* his plans for the proposed all-age careers service and *(b)* the timetable for its implementation following the merger of the Next Steps and Connexions services. [37070]

Mr Hayes: In developing plans and the timetable for the introduction of the All-Age careers service, we are consulting with a broad range of stakeholders, including the National Connexions Network, the Association of School and College Leaders, the Institute of Careers Guidance and the Local Government Association.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the statutory responsibilities of the proposed all-age careers service will be from the academic year 2011-12. [37071]

Mr Hayes: The all-age careers service will be provided through an arrangement between the Secretary of State and the chief executive of Skills Funding, under existing legislation. We are developing the model for the all-age-service including its responsibilities from the academic year 2011/12—in consultation with stakeholders.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce *(a)* the funding allocated to the proposed all-age careers service in 2011-12 and *(b)* the proportion of funding for that service to be provided by (i) his Department and (ii) the Department for Education. [37072]

Mr Hayes: Resourcing for the all-age careers service is under consideration. Details of the funding that will be available in 2011-12 and in subsequent years, including the split between the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education, will be announced in due course.

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what local authority responsibilities for the delivery of information, advice and guidance services will be transferred to the proposed all-age careers service as a result of the planned merger between Next Steps and Connexions. [37073]

Mr Hayes: When the all-age service is established, local authorities will no longer be expected to make available a universal careers advice and guidance offer to young people. Local authorities will continue to be responsible for securing targeted support services for vulnerable young people, including those who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34825]

Mr Maude: Staff employed by the Cabinet Office on London pay bands are paid at a rate above the London living wage. Information for sub-contracted staff is held by individual suppliers.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what single tender contracts his Department has awarded in respect of *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* the

Prime Minister's Office, *(c)* the Deputy Prime Minister's office and *(d)* the Office of the Leader of the House since his appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36197]

Mr Maude: Information in this precise form is available only at disproportionate cost, though details of Cabinet Office spend are published monthly as part of the Government's transparency agenda.

Employment: Manufacturing Industries

Chris White: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed in the manufacturing sector in *(a)* Warwickshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in each year since 2001. [36259]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were employed in the manufacturing sector in (a) Warwickshire and (b) the West Midlands in each year since 2001. (036259)

Annual statistics on the number of employees are available from the ONS release, "Annual Employment Statistics" derived from the Business Register Employment Survey (prior to 2009 employee estimates were available from the Annual Business Inquiry). This survey produces statistics on the number of employees only, and so excludes the self-employed. An estimate that included the self-employed at the level of detail requested would only be available through the Labour Force Survey. However, the industrial classification in the Labour Force Survey is known to be weak and as a result the Business Register Employment Survey, which has better accuracy in terms of its industrial classifications, has been used. The latest period for which figures are available is 2009.

Table 1 provides information showing the numbers of employees in manufacturing in Warwickshire and the West Midlands between 2001 and 2009.

Table 1: Number of employees in the manufacturing sector

Thousands

Period	*Warwickshire*	*West Midlands*
2001	34.0	432.0
2002	34.2	455.5
2003	34.8	416.4
2004	35.1	386.1
2005	32.2	361.7
2006	31.4	351.4
2007	30.1	330.0
2008	30.1	319.1
2009	26.1	279.3

Notes:

1. Direct comparisons of employee estimates over these different periods should be treated with caution. Estimates for 2008 onwards are from the Business Register Employment Survey (BRES) and are on a new standard industrial classification basis (SIC2007). Estimates prior to this are from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) on the previous standard industrial classification basis (SIC2003).

2. An assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests the total number of employees for the manufacturing sector for GB increased by around 0.1% by moving to BRES from the ABI.

3. The change from SIC2003 to SIC2007an additional impact between 2008 and 2009 with the removal of the recycling industry out of manufacturing having the largest impact.

4. For the ABI estimates prior to 2006 are on a different basis to 2006 to 2008. An assessment of changes in survey methodology suggests that the estimate of the total number of employees for the manufacturing sector for GB increased by around 0.3%.

Employment: Mutual Societies

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which public bodies have expressed an interest in becoming employee mutuals; and what the total budget is of such bodies in the current financial year. [36010]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to introducing new 'Rights to Provide' for public sector workers to form employee-led organisations and take over the services they deliver.

Mutuals offer improved organisational performance and efficiency through greater employee productivity, and greater scope for innovation.

Cabinet Office is working with Departments to develop guidance on mutualisation and how to respond to expressions of interest by employees, including for non-departmental public bodies.

Progress will be included in the forthcoming Public Services Reform White Paper, including actions to reduce barriers and encourage take-up, setting out the Government's ambitions for mutualisation over the next few years.

NDPBs

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-departmental public bodies proposed for transfer out of the public sector. [36012]

Mr Maude: A number of public bodies are proposed for transfer out of the public sector, including the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence which will no longer be a non-departmental public body, and the Design Council which seeks to establish itself as an independent charity. Departments are also working to make decisions on the 40 bodies that were under consideration at the time of my public bodies review announcement on 14 October 2010.

Private Sector: East Midlands

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of *(a)* the City of Derby, *(b)* Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and *(c)* the East Midlands was employed in the private sector in each of the last 10 years. [37295]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of (a) the City of Derby, (b) Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and (c) the East Midlands region was employed in the private sector in each of the last 10 years. (037295)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of persons employed in the private sector resident in the City of Derby, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership and East Midlands for the 12 month periods ending in December from 2004 to 2009 from the APS, along with the latest estimate for the period ending June 2010. Estimates are not available prior to the 12 month period ending December 2004.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] and proportions of working population employed in the private sector resident in East Midlands, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire[2] and City of Derby

	East Midlands		*Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire*		*City of Derby*	
12 month period ending:	*Level (thousand)*	*Proportion (%)*	*Level (thousand)*	*Proportion (%)*	*Level (thousand)*	*Proportion (%)*
December 2004	1,602	78	726	77	79	77
December 2005	1,620	78	737	77	80	79
December 2006	1,657	78	748	77	79	75
December 2007	1,682	79	758	78	82	76
December 2008	1,657	77	751	76	81	74
December 2009	1,614	76	724	74	83	75
June 2010	[1]1,589	75	[1]720	74	[2]82	74

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.

[2] Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership is made up of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

CV = Coefficient of Variation

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Public Expenditure: Unemployment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) when he plans to answer question 22140, on job losses and the comprehensive spending review, tabled on 1 November 2010 for answer on 3 November 2010; [36200]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of job losses in the civil service attributable to the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review *(a)* at each civil service pay band, *(b)* in each region and *(c)* in each year of the spending review period. [22140]

Mr Maude: Departments are currently working through the detail of what their individual spending review settlements will mean in terms of their own work force planning. The estimates requested are not currently held by the Cabinet Office.

Technology: East Midlands

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the workforce of *(a)* the City of Derby, *(b)* Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and *(c)* the East Midlands is classified as employed in high technology industries. [37301]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the workforce of (a) the City of Derby, (b) Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and (c) the East Midlands is classified as employed in high technology industries. (37301)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The UK Standard Industrial Classification does not have a classification for high technology industries, however the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) uses a definition of high technology industries based on industries involved in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, computer, electronic and optical products and air, spacecraft and related machinery.

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of persons employed in the high technology industries resident in the City of Derby, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership and East Midlands for the 12 month ending June 2010.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons[1] and proportion of working population employed in high technology industries[2] resident in East Midlands, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire[3] and city of Derby

	12-month period ending June 2010	
	Level (Thousand)	*Proportion (%)*
City of Derby	***8	7
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	***27	3

Table 1: Number of persons[1] and proportion of working population employed in high technology industries[2] resident in East Midlands, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire[3] and city of Derby

	12-month period ending June 2010	
	Level (Thousand)	*Proportion (%)*
East Midlands	**43	2

[1] Persons aged 16 and over.

[2] High technology industries defined as manufacture of pharmaceutical products, computer electronic and optical products and air, spacecraft and related machinery. (Divisions 21 and 26, and Group 30.3 of the UK Standard Industrial Classification 2007).

[3] Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership is made up of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Note:

Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key:

* 0 ≤ CV<5%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20%—Statistical Robustness: Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Education

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to promote the education of girls in Afghanistan. [37127]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the Afghan Government to integrate gender equality into all its policies, including on education. DFID's funding contributions to the Government of Afghanistan have helped to make sure that 1.9 million girls are now attending school and more than 48,000 women teachers are in post. Through our ongoing support, we hope to see 2.6 million girls attending school and 64,000 women teachers in post within the next three years.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to allocate resources for humanitarian purposes in Afghanistan. [37130]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is developing a new humanitarian strategy for Afghanistan and is considering its allocation for humanitarian needs in Afghanistan for the coming years.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department employs staff in Kabul dedicated to conducting and promoting its humanitarian work in Afghanistan. [37131]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) office in Kabul does employ staff tasked with monitoring, planning for and responding to the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what proportion of his Department's planned expenditure on Afghanistan will be spent in Helmand province. [37128]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently undertaking a review of its bilateral programme to determine how we can achieve better value for money for the UK taxpayer, while bringing real benefits to the world's poor and accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Details of future aid allocations within Afghanistan will be available upon the conclusion of the bilateral aid review.

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to each province of Afghanistan in the latest period for which figures are available. [37129]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided to the right hon. and learned Member for Camberwell and Peckham (Ms Harman) on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 918W, on Afghanistan: Overseas Aid.

Bangladesh: Floods

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department allocated to flood prevention in Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [37582]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following on flood prevention in Bangladesh between 2005-06 and 2009-10.

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	1.14
2006-07	2.59
2007-08	3.84
2008-09	5.74
2009-10	2.1

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects in Bangladesh are funded by his Department. [37589]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the provision of basic social services, creating jobs and income, improving governance, and helping Bangladesh adapt to climate change. Gender and aid effectiveness are key themes across the programme. DFID works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Energy and Climate Change and other Government

Departments on climate change and strengthening democracy in Bangladesh. A full list of ongoing and recently completed projects is available on the project database which can be accessed on DFID's website

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/Default.aspx?countrySelect=BD-Bangjadesh

DFID is currently reviewing its programme in Bangladesh as part of the ongoing bilateral aid review, to ensure UK aid achieves maximum value for money for the UK taxpayer, while bringing real benefit to the world's poor and accelerating progress towards the millennium development goals. The review will report shortly.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided to Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [37590]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) spent the following amounts on bilateral aid in Bangladesh in each of the last five financial years. This information is contained in DFID's annual publication "Statistics on International Development", which is available in the House Library and on DFID's website.

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	123
2006-07	109
2007-08	129
2008-09	132
2009-10	148

Burma: Overseas Aid

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects and organisations in Burma his Department funded in the latest period for which figures are available. [36785]

Mr Duncan: In 2010 the main projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Burma were: the Three Diseases Fund to tackle HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria; the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund; UNICEF's multi-donor Education Fund; Save the Children's pre-school education programme; and a project working with civil society organisations to help Burmese people to have a better say in local decisions which affect their lives. DFID also provided funding for Burmese refugees in Thailand and people displaced by conflict inside Burma through the Thailand Burma Border Consortium, the International Rescue Committee and other non-governmental organisations.

Further details, including financial allocations, can be found on DFID's project database at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Burma: Politics and Government

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the needs arising from the humanitarian situation in Burma. [36468]

Mr Duncan: A comprehensive assessment is not available. It is estimated that more than one third of all households have insufficient money to meet their basic needs, and 10% of the population do not have enough to eat. One in five children die before they reach the age of five, and one in three is malnourished. 380 of every 100,000 women die unnecessarily in pregnancy or childbirth. 70% of people are at risk from malaria, with 4 million cases and 9,000 deaths each year. Over 95% of health costs are met by people themselves, with government expenditure and international assistance for health care amounting to less than US $1 per person per year. Education is also severely underfunded. It is likely that poverty is particularly severe in areas of eastern Burma affected by armed conflict, in Chin and Rakhine States, and in parts of the central dry zone. Around 500,000 people have been displaced by conflict in eastern Burma, of which about 100,000 are living in areas of continuing fighting. Around 150,000 Burmese people live as refugees in camps in Thailand.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is helping to address these needs through an aid programme focused on improving health care, basic education and income-earning opportunities for rural people; and providing assistance for people displaced by conflict, including Burmese refugees in Thailand. DFID's allocation for Burma for 2010-11 is £28 million, to which a further £3 million is being added in order to contribute to the relief and recovery effort following Cyclone Giri which hit Burma in October 2010.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36603]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has identified and is implementing a range of initiatives to achieve a 10% reduction in carbon emissions by June 2011. The biggest reduction in energy consumption will be achieved through reducing the number of IT servers. DFID has also installed a green roof at its East Kilbride headquarters, which has reduced carbon emissions from gas usage. A number of other changes have also been made, such as reconfiguring lighting systems, reducing plant operation times and cooling IT equipment. In addition, a communications strategy has been developed to encourage staff to save energy by, for example, switching off computers and photocopiers after use.

Developing Countries: Financial Services

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on financial sector development, including *(a)* branchless banking, *(b)* microfinance, *(c)* finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and *(d)* remittances. [37061]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) takes a broad based approach to financial sector development to provide stable, sustainable and affordable financial services to individuals, households and firms in developing countries.

DFID promotes branchless banking to harness the potential offered by new technologies such as mobile banking, which have made it possible for poor people to access financial services without having to travel long distances to a bank branch and at an affordable cost. We also promote the use of technology to send and receive remittances more cheaply, quickly and safely.

DFID will explore innovative financial instruments and new models to scale up financing for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing countries. We will also support the development of financial market infrastructure, which is essential for attracting commercial players for financing SMEs.

Building on the lessons learned from microfinance (and in particular from micro-credit), we will continue our work to strengthen microfinance institutions and the development of new products including micro-savings and micro-insurance.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent projects his Department has supported to improve the provision of maternal health services in the developing world. [36335]

Mr O'Brien: Improving reproductive, maternal and newborn health is a key priority for the coalition Government. On 31 December 2010 the Department for International Development (DFID) launched 'Choices for women: planned pregnancies, safe births and healthy newborns'. This new framework for results sets out how the UK will double its efforts to improve reproductive, maternal and newborn health over the coming years, including saving 50,000 maternal lives and 250,000 newborns. Projects that will be supported in order to achieve this are currently being determined as part of the ongoing aid reviews, which will report in the coming months. Information on the new framework and all current maternal health projects is available on the DFID website.

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* external advisers are working on his Department's (i) bilateral aid review, (ii) multilateral aid review and (iii) humanitarian aid review. [36864]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The team co-ordinating the Bilateral Aid Review (BAR), which was in place between May and December 2010, consisted of four officials. Two officials continue to oversee the BAR in its final stages. The Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) team is made up of four officials. Two external reviewers are also acting as peer reviewers during the course of the MAR. The Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR) secretariat consists of four officials, one consultant and one seconded staff member from the Development Assistance Research Associates (DARA). An external Senior Advisory Board, chaired by Lord Ashdown, is responsible for overseeing the content of the HERR report.

In addition, staff across DFID continue to provide inputs into all three reviews and it is, therefore, not possible to determine the total number of officials working on these reviews without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* consultations and *(b)* other meetings he (i) has held and (ii) plans to hold with representatives of (A) non-governmental organisations, (B) civil society, (C) national governments and (D) multilateral organisations as part of his Department's multilateral aid review. [36872]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I have written to representatives of national governments, multilateral organisations and civil society organisations, including non-governmental organisations, to inform them of the Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) and invite comments. I also meet these stakeholders regularly, in one-to-one meetings, through larger groupings such as the British Overseas Aid Group, and during international events such as the UN summit on the millennium development goals in September 2010, or the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos. The MAR has been and will continue to be discussed in many of these meetings.

The results of the MAR will be shared with these stakeholders.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* consultations and *(b)* other meetings he (i) has held and (ii) plans to hold with representatives of (A) non-governmental organisations, (B) civil society, (C) national governments and (D) multilateral organisations as part of his Department's bilateral aid review. [36873]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I meet stakeholders regularly, in one-to-one meetings, through larger groupings such as the British Overseas Aid Group (BOAG), and during international events such as the UN summit on the millennium development goals in September 2010, or the annual World Economic Forum meeting in Davos. The Bilateral Aid Review (BAR) has been and will continue to be discussed in many of these meetings.

Department for International Development (DFID) officials have met representatives of UK based non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on a number of occasions during the BAR. Officials based in DFID country offices have met with representatives of national government and civil society, including NGOs, throughout the BAR to discuss the review and its possible outcomes. These possible outcomes have also been reviewed and scrutinised by a panel of independent experts, including members of civil society organisations such as Results for Development, the Gates Foundation and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

The results of the BAR will be shared with these stakeholders.

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* consultations and *(b)* other meetings he (i) has held and (ii) plans to hold with representatives of (A) non-governmental organisations, (B) civil society, (C) national governments and (D) multilateral organisations as part of his Department's humanitarian aid review. [36874]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Humanitarian Emergency Response Review is an independent review, chaired by Lord Ashdown. All consultations are being held by Lord Ashdown, by the independent members of the review's Advisory Board, which Lord Ashdown chairs, and by the review secretariat.

Overseas Aid: Private Sector

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made a recent assessment of compliance by his Department's suppliers and partners with the International Labour Organisation's core standards on labour and social matters. [37056]

Mr Duncan: There have been no recent assessments of compliance by the Department for International Development's (DFID's) direct suppliers or partners to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO's) core labour standards.

DFID's advertised contract opportunities require all suppliers to provide details of their social and environmental policies. Short-listed suppliers invited to submit a tender receive a statement setting out DFID's expectation that suppliers wishing to work with DFID can demonstrate compliance with ILO's core standards on labour and social matters, aligned to UK Government sustainable procurement policies.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials at each grade work in his Department's Private Sector Department. [37057]

Mr O'Brien: There are currently 18 staff working in the new Private Sector Department. This will increase to 24 people when fully staffed, comprising the following grades.

DFID grade	*Equivalent civil service grade*	*Current staff*	*Permanent posts when fully staffed*
SCS	SCS	1	1
A1	Grade 6	5	4
A2	Grade 7	6	9
A2L	SEO	3	3
B1(D)	Faststream	0	2
B1	HEO	1	2
B2	EO	1	2
C1	AO	1	1
Total	—	18	24

Current staff numbers include three temporary posts (two at A1 and one at A2) assigned to specific projects which will end in the coming months.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the aims and objectives are of his Department's Private Sector Department; and if he will make a statement. [37058]

Mr O'Brien: The new Private Sector Department will work to improve the prosperity and well-being of people in poor countries by prompting and catalysing change across the Department for International Development (DFID), to deepen our capability to work with and enable private enterprise in delivering poverty reduction. A work programme will be developed over the coming weeks. DFID will publish details of its new approach to working with the private sector in May 2011.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for the future use of public-private partnerships in his Department. [37059]

Mr O'Brien: Governments in developing countries lack sufficient funds to meet infrastructure spending needs, with Africa alone having an annual US$31 billion shortfall in investment. Globally, 1.6 billion people lack electricity, 0.9 billion are without safe water and 2.6 billion are without basic sanitation.

The Department for International Development (DFID) plans to work with the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) and other facilities to attract private investment and management into innovative projects to improve the lives of the poor and the economic prospects of their countries.

One example of the type of project supported is Bugoye, a 13 MW hydro-electric power station in Uganda. The lack of power in Uganda is causing severe constraints on economic development. PIDG is investing $35 million in this project which will help improve the situation.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consultation he plans to undertake on his Department's new approach to working with the private sector. [37065]

Mr O'Brien: The Secretary of State, officials at the Department for International Development (DFID) and I frequently meet with private sector representatives and numerous other interlocutors to inform and determine DFID's approach to working with the private sector.

In addition DFID also undertakes formal public consultations on specific policy issues relating to its work with the private sector. Recent high level public consultations include those on the reform of CDC Group plc and on the Microfinance Capacity Building Facility for Sub-Saharan Africa. Future consultations on specific opportunities for working with the private sector will be arranged as and when required.

Overseas Trade: Ethics

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to encourage fair and ethical trade. [37060]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to encouraging fair and ethical trade as a means to encourage responsible business practices in the least developed countries. DFID has committed £12 million over 2010-11 to 2013-14 to support the co-ordinated global expansion of Fairtrade, which aims to double the number of producers benefiting, particularly in the poorest countries and conflict affected regions, by the end of 2013. The UK Government also work in partnership with the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) and launched the Responsible and Accountable

Garments Sector (RAGS) Challenge Fund in 2010, which aim to improve the working conditions of the poor within global supply chains.

Thailand: Education

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department funds educational projects in Thailand which target migrant children from Burma. [36469]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) funding in Thailand focuses primarily on providing food, shelter, other materials and improved access to legal assistance for Burmese people living in refugee camps, and humanitarian assistance for people displaced by conflict inside Burma.

Burmese migrant children in Thailand have, however, benefited from one project which included support of £17,680 in 2009-10 for primary education.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated in accident and emergency departments *(a)* in hospitals in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* on average in hospitals in England in each of the last five years. [36688]

Mr Simon Burns: Data are not available in the format requested.

A table showing the number of first attendances at accident and emergency (A and E) by organisation in England in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library. Data on the total number of first attendances at A and E departments in England are also provided.

An extract of the data relating to the number of first attendances at A and E in hospitals in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has been listed as follows.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

	Number
2006-07	167,462
2007-08	157,267
2008-09	156,346
2009-10	157,033
2010-11 YTD	84,291

Notes:

1. Data from independent sector services are included from quarter 1 2007-08.

2. Data for 2010-11 have been provided for the year to date (YTD), which is the year to the end of quarter 2 2010-11.

3. Data have been extracted for this query for all providers who submitted data over the last five years. Therefore, changes in the number of attendances reported by individual providers over this five year period will reflect both genuine changes in activity, and the effects of mergers, reconfiguration and the introduction of new providers.

4. Information on the number of attendances at A and E is held, rather than information on the number of individual patients. Data for the number of first attendances have been provided, and these data exclude both planned and unplanned follow-ups at A and E. It is possible for a patient to attend A and E more than once during the year for separate incidents.

Source:

Quarterly Monitoring of A and E (QMAE)

Arthritis

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on improving *(a)* awareness and *(b)* early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. [36692]

Paul Burstow: Departmental records show that from May 2010 there have been seven items of correspondence and three parliamentary questions relating to either the improving awareness or early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis.

Departmental officials and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my noble Friend Earl Howe, met representatives of the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) on 22 September 2010 to discuss concerns about national health service management of care pathways for rheumatoid arthritis.

Arthritis: Health Services

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that GP consortia have sufficient knowledge of inflammatory arthritis conditions to be able to commission rheumatology services effectively; and if he will make a statement [36684]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Commissioning Board will have a vital role in providing national leadership for driving up the quality of care across health commissioning, including inflammatory arthritis services. The Board will do this by supporting general practitioner (GP) consortiums in a number of ways including:

> publishing commissioning guidance and model care pathways, based on the evidence-based quality standards that it has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop;
>
> designing the Commissioning Outcomes Framework and the new quality premium; and
>
> helping to ensure that consortiums have access to high-quality information.

It will be for the Board to determine the details of its work programme and the content of commissioning guidance.

In addition, a GP consortium pathfinder programme has been established that is testing the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning, exploring some of the issues involved in ensuring effective implementation across the country. A number of pathfinders are focusing specifically on exploring the commissioning of care for patients with long-term conditions.

Baby Care Units

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to collect information from NHS trusts on the delivery of a two-year outcome assessment for neonatal care; [36410]

(2) what information his Department plans to collect on the implementation of the Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services and Quality Standards in Specialist Neonatal Care as part of the NHS Operating Framework 2011-12. [36413]

Anne Milton: It is for local neonatal networks, commissioners and providers to agree priorities for neonatal services and monitor their implementation.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence 'Quality Standard for Specialist Neonatal Care', published in October 2010, includes nine quality statements, one of which is that babies receiving specialist neonatal care have their health outcomes monitored.

The 'Toolkit for High Quality Neonatal Services', developed by the Neonatal Taskforce and published by the Department in November 2009 as good practice guidance, includes as a marker of good practice that all services ensure that processes are in place to enable the collection of standardised two-year health outcomes for all babies who meet the criteria for these assessments.

The Operating Framework for the national health service in England 2011-12 does not focus specifically on neonatal services, but on what needs to happen in implementing the first full year of the transition in the Government's ambitious programme of reforms in the NHS.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the differential effects on breast cancer screening take-up rates of *(a)* purpose built screening units and *(b)* mobile units. [36770]

Paul Burstow: No assessment has been made of the differential effects on breast screening uptake of purpose built screening units and mobile units.

However, I would refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 719W.

Cancer

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* public information and *(b)* educational steps his Department is taking to address late diagnosis of cancer. [36833]

Paul Burstow: Tackling late diagnosis is central to "Improving outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", which we published on 12 January. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The earlier a cancer is diagnosed, the sooner treatment can begin and the better the outcome is likely to be.

We are supporting local initiatives across 109 primary care trusts to raise awareness of bowel, breast and lung cancer. We are piloting a national bowel cancer campaign in two regions of the country to raise pubic awareness of the early signs and symptoms of bowel cancer and encourage early presentation to primary care. To support the regional pilots, we have commissioned Bowel Cancer UK to develop a bowel cancer resource pack for general practitioners (GPs). Local and national evaluation will build the evidence base for cancer awareness interventions.

Going forward, we are looking at how decision support tools, risk assessment, safety netting practices and audit can be integrated into GP training, appraisal and revalidation to support GPs to diagnose cancer.

Care UK: Contracts

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health contracts have been awarded to Care UK in each month since May 2010. [36439]

Mr Simon Burns: We do not hold information centrally about local national health services and social care contracts. Primary care trusts and local authorities are responsible for their own contracting arrangements and decisions.

We can confirm that, as at the close of the last accounting period on 31 December 2010, the Department has not entered into any new contracts with Care UK since May 2010.

Cataracts: Older People

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost of treating elderly patients with cataracts in hospitals in the last year for which figures are available. [36333]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested.

While the Department does collect the average cost of cataract procedures in hospitals, they are not sufficiently detailed to show the costs of treating elderly patients with cataracts.

The following table contains total reported cost information from the 2009-10 reference costs (the most recent year for which data have been published) for collection categories which relate explicitly to cataract procedures.

Code	*Description*	*Total cost (£ million)*[1, 2]
BZ01Z	Enhanced Cataract Surgery	7.7
BZ02Z	Phacoemulsification Cataract Extraction and Lens Implant	243.8
BZ03Z	Non-Phacoemulsification Cataract Surgery	5.3
Total[3]		256.7

[1] The total reported cost figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000 and cover day case, elective, non-elective, out-patient procedure and regular day/night attender activity.

[2] The figures do not include the cost of any treatment provided as part of an out-patient attendance. This is because costs relating to cataract treatment in this setting are not collected separately, but will be included in the total cost of out-patient attendances for ophthalmology, which in 2009-10 was almost £455 million.

[3] The total does not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Figures in the table are taken from schedule 4 (national health service trusts and primary care trusts combined) of the national schedules of reference costs for the financial year 2009-10, available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/NHScostingmanual/index.htm

Clinics: Patients

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were examined at the *(a)* Alexandra Avenue Polyclinic and *(b)* Pinn Medical Centre who (i) were and (ii) were not registered patients with the surgery running the centre and polyclinic; and if he will make a statement. [36647]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally. However, the hon. Member may wish to contact Harrow primary care trust directly for local information on this matter.

Dental Services

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the likely administrative requirements under the Care Quality Commission's proposed arrangements for registration of dental practices. [36671]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is required to take a proportionate approach to the regulation of health and social care providers. The Department monitors CQC's financial and operational performance at a strategic level at regular formal accountability meetings.

Primary dental care providers must register with CQC from 1 April 2011. We are informed by CQC that the process of registering providers is proceeding well.

All providers of regulated activities, including primary dental care providers, will be required to pay an annual registration fee. CQC has consulted on its fees proposals to apply from 1 April 2011. Its final fees provision is subject to the consent of the Secretary of State.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36607]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest data on performance of each Department towards the 10% reduction target are publicly available on the following website:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Performance data are reported monthly, within four weeks of the month end.

The Department's current estimate of reduction in the level of carbon emissions since May 2010 is just above the 10% required.

Projects under way that will help us meet our target include:

replacing our desktop personal computers with more energy efficient network interface boxes and centralising storage;

decommissioning a number of information technology servers;

reduction of air-conditioning requirement in server rooms;

installation of new lighting system on the 6th floor of Skipton House;

installation of new ventilation and air-conditioning system on the 2nd floor of Richmond House;

introduction of Voltage Optimisation;

replacement of lamps;

installing sub meters in one building;

replace Air Handling Unit Fan assembly;

the move of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to a more efficient building; and

Building Management System upgrade works in three Head Quarter buildings.

The target of reducing emissions by 10% applies to the three HQ buildings in which the Department has direct responsibility for energy use, and those occupied by NHS Connecting Health for MHRA.

Drugs and Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* problematic and *(b)* non-problematic users of (i) alcohol, (ii) tobacco, (iii) cannabis, (iv) ecstasy, (v) heroine, (vi) cocaine, (vii) crack cocaine, (viii) LSD and (ix) amphetamines in each of the last 10 years. [36869]

Anne Milton: Data on smoking prevalence across Great Britain over the past decade are set out in the Office for National Statistics publication "Smoking and drinking among adults, 2009", published on 27 January 2011. This document has been placed in the Library.

Problematic use of alcohol may be assessed as (i) regular excessive drinking, which increases long term health risks and (ii) excessive drinking on single occasions, carrying risks related to intoxication.

Those who exceed the weekly equivalent (more than 21 units weekly for men, more than 14 units weekly for women) of the national health service guidelines for regular daily consumption are the nearest measure of the first type of problematic drinker. Some individuals who drink regularly within the NHS guidelines will also incur illness or death as a result of their consumption, as risks of certain diseases are lower but still occur at these levels. These data are likely to understate the true numbers of those exceeding the NHS guidelines, as they are based on self-reported consumption.

Comparable data are only available from 2005 to 2009, the latest year for which figures are available.

Average weekly alcohol consumption among adults aged 16 or over in England

		None last year	*Up to 21 units (men) and 14 units (women)*	*More than 21 units (men) and 14 units (women)*
2005	Percentage	15	59	26
	Number (million)	6.0	24.1	10.7
2006	Percentage	14	60	25
	Number (million)	5.8	24.8	10.4
2007	Percentage	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Number (million)	n/a	n/a	n/a
2008	Percentage	15	62	23

Average weekly alcohol consumption among adults aged 16 or over in England

		None last year	Up to 21 units (men) and 14 units (women)	More than 21 units (men) and 14 units (women)
	Number (million)	6.4	25.7	9.7
2009	Percentage	16	62	22
	Number (million)	6.7	26.0	9.4

Note:
Figures are not available for 2007.
Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Household Survey 2005-2006 and General Lifestyle Survey 2008-2009.

Those drinking more than double the NHS guidelines for daily consumption on their heaviest drinking day in the previous week are usually taken as an approximate estimate for numbers in the population drinking to intoxication on single occasions, sometimes referred to as 'binge drinking'. NHS advice to individuals is to avoid episodes of intoxication. Individuals are best able to gauge how to stay within levels of consumption that enable them to avoid intoxication.

Amount drunk on heaviest drinking day in the last week by adults aged 16 or over in England

		Drank nothing last week	Up to 8 units (men) and 6 units (women)	More than 8 units (men) and 6 units (women)
2005	Percentage	35	46	19
	Number (million)	14.3	18.8	7.7
2006	Percentage	36	45	19
	Number (million)	14.9	18.5	7.7
2007	Percentage	35	45	20
	Number (million)	14.7	18.5	8.3
2008	Percentage	37	45	18
	Number (million)	15.5	18.8	7.5
2009	Percentage	38	45	16
	Number (million)	16.2	19.0	6.9

Source:
Office for National Statistics, General Household Survey 2005-2007 and General Lifestyle Survey 2008-2009.

As part of the British Crime Survey, data on self-reported drug use are collected. The following table shows the proportion of adults (aged 16 to 59 years) in England and Wales who have taken the drugs listed in the last year, over the past 10 years.

Proportion of 16 to 59-year-olds in England and Wales reporting use of drugs in the last year, 2000 to 2009-10

	2000	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Any cocaine	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.5
Powder cocaine	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.4
Crack cocaine	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0,2
Ecstasy	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.8	1,6
LSD	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0,2
Heroin	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Any amphetamine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.0
Amphetamines	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.0
Methamphetamine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.0
Cannabis	10.5	10.6	10.9	10.8	9.7	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.9	6.6

Note:
From 2001-02 the British Crime Survey moved to reporting on a financial year basis.
Source:
Drug misuse declared: findings from the 2009-10 British Crime Survey.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure availability of treatments for drug misuse for ex-offenders on discharge from prison. [36474]

Paul Burstow: The Department has confirmed to drug partnerships that the total amount available from the Government to support community delivery of treatment and recovery in 2011-12 will be £501.7 million.

From April, most funding for community drug treatment and all funding for prison drug treatment will be the responsibility of the Department. This will allow local areas to bridge the gap more effectively between prison and community treatment, and ensure that more offenders have a chance of recovery from drug misuse and a chance to contribute more fully to society.

General Practitioners

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means he proposes to *(a)* measure and *(b)* analyse the effectiveness of health and well-being boards in scrutinising GP consortia. [36486]

Paul Burstow: In response to consultation comments following the publication of "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", we have decided that local authorities' overview and scrutiny functions will remain separate from the proposed health and well-being boards. We also intend to significantly extend the scrutiny powers available to councils, so that they will have the powers to scrutinise any national health service funded services, whoever provides them.

Currently, local authorities are commentators on the NHS, in future through health and well-being boards they will have a direct role in shaping health services, setting the strategy for health, social care and public health to meet their local population needs.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to make publicly available the responses to his Department's proposals for GP commissioning consortia set out in the Health White Paper Equity and Excellence. [36487]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's response to the consultation "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps" summarises the responses received to the consultation on the White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", and associated consultations, including "Commissioning for Patients". A list of organisations which responded to the consultation is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123342.pdf

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has set an *(a)* upper and *(b)* lower limit for the individual remuneration of GP members of GP commissioning boards. [36657]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 994-95W.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the *(a)* conduct and *(b)* evaluation of the GP consortia pilot projects. [36668]

Mr Simon Burns: All prospective general practitioner (GP) consortia, whether pathfinders or not, will receive a broad range of development support from their primary care trust (PCT), their strategic health authority (SHA) and the Department. This includes financial support, as well as the assignment of personnel with key skills, such as senior finance managers.

In addition, we are also establishing a national learning network for GP consortia pathfinders. The network will complement the support given to pathfinders by SHAs and PCTs and has the objective of accelerating the development of GP commissioning by ensuring that the learning of pathfinders is shared through the wider GP community.

The shadow NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for producing and publishing an analysis of the findings of the pathfinder programme and set out the lessons learned that will be applied as consortia become formally established during 2012-13.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for GP consortia have been received by his Department; and what criteria he plans to use to determine whether they will proceed. [36669]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority, who are responsible for considering these expressions of interest.

The Government's expectation is that any group of GP practices that wishes to become a pathfinder consortium will be able to do so, provided it is able to demonstrate evidence of strong GP leadership and support, local authority engagement and an ability to contribute delivery of the Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention plans for its locality.

There are 141 pathfinder consortia across England.

Pathfinders will not necessarily evolve into GP consortia, as GP practices will be able to adjust arrangements before applying to the NHS Commissioning Board for establishment.

The Commissioning Board will have the duty and powers to authorise consortia, once it is satisfied that they have the necessary arrangements and capacity to fulfil their duties and responsibilities.

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to *(a)* measure and *(b)* assess the effectiveness of health and wellbeing boards in scrutinising the GP consortia. [36847]

Paul Burstow: In response to consultation comments following the publication of "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", we have decided that local authorities' overview and scrutiny functions will remain separate from the proposed health and wellbeing boards. We also intend to significantly extend the scrutiny powers available to councils, so that they will have the powers to scrutinise any national health service funded services, whoever provides them.

Currently, local authorities are commentators on the NHS, in future through health and wellbeing boards they will have a direct role in shaping health services, setting the strategy for health, social care and public health to meet their local population needs.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for GP consortia he has received to date; and what criteria he plans to use to determine whether they should proceed. [37211]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority (SHA). SHAs will approve any group of practices to become a pathfinder if they can demonstrate clinical leadership, local authority engagement, and an ability to contribute to the delivery of the local Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention agenda in their locality. They will need to be able to operate in the context of the existing service and financial plans in the health communities they are working in.

The 52 pathfinders announced in December 2010 are already operational and assuming increased commissioning responsibilities from their primary care trusts under existing legislation. A further 89 groups were announced on 17 January 2011.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish plans for the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* evaluation of GP consortia pilot projects. [37212]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

The shadow NHS Commissioning Board will produce and publish an analysis of the findings of the pathfinder programme and set out the lessons learned that will be applied as consortia become formally established during 2012-13.

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place to *(a)* measure and *(b)* assess the effectiveness of health and wellbeing boards in scrutinising GP consortia. [37213]

Paul Burstow: In response to consultation comments following the publication of "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", we have decided that local authorities' overview and scrutiny functions will remain separate from the proposed health and wellbeing boards. We also intend to significantly extend the scrutiny powers available to councils, so that they will have the powers to scrutinise any national health service funded services, whoever provides them.

Currently, local authorities are commentators on the NHS, in future through Health and Wellbeing Boards they will have a direct role in shaping health services, setting the strategy for health, social care and public health to meet their local population needs.

General Practitioners: North West

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what applications his Department has received for GP commissioning consortia in *(a)* Wigan and *(b)* the North West. [36543]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority. There are no pathfinder consortia in Wigan and 17 pathfinder consortia in the NHS north west.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent progress has been made on implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) on the availability to existing veterans of an online mental well-being website and membership of the online support network; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15; [36568]

(2) what recent progress has been made in implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire that the partnership agreement with Combat Stress is extended; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15; [36569]

(3) what recent progress he has made in implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire relating to the e-learning veterans' health package and embedded outreach professionals; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15; [36570]

(4) what recent progress he has made in implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire that community outreach work is undertaken to discover cases and refer appropriately;

by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15; [36571]

(5) what recent progress he has made in implementing the recommendation of the report by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire that a customised mental well-being website is designed and online support network trialled; by what date he expects to have implemented that recommendation; and what funding is being made available by his Department for such implementation in each financial year to 2014-15. [36572]

Mr Simon Burns: The hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) was asked by the Prime Minister to review mental health services for serving personnel and veterans. His report, published in October 2010, made a number of recommendations:

Incorporation of a structured mental health inquiry into existing medical examinations performed while serving—Ministry of Defence (MOD) are currently developing an enhanced mental health assessment that will undergo a three-month trial from April 2011.

Increasing the number of mental health professionals (from 15 to 30) conducting veterans outreach work from mental health trusts in partnership with a leading mental health charity—the Department is working with the NHS armed forces networks and others to scope the requirements for this with a view to commissioning this service soon after April 2011. The specification will look to ensure that the needs of veterans in all parts of England are met, and this will require some flexibility in the number and type of mental health nurses and where they are placed.

A Veterans' Information Service will be put in place so that 12 months after a person leaves the armed forces, they will be provided with information offering the opportunity to access guidance and support on health and well-being issues. The Department is developing proposals for this service, working with the Royal British Legion. A limited trial will be conducted during 2011 with roll-out scheduled for early 2012.

Trial of an online early intervention service for serving personnel and veterans. The Department is working with MOD and the Big White Wall, a voluntary organisation who specialise in providing a supported, online mental health community for vulnerable adults and other target groups to put this service in place. It is expected that this service will be piloted from April 2011 in selected areas.

Extension of the partnership agreement with Combat Stress—the Department has been working closely with Combat Stress on a number of veterans mental health issues. The Department also links with the devolved Administrations on these and other issues through the MOD/UK Departments of Health Partnership Board. Departmental officials will meet with the new chief executive of Combat Stress in February 2011 at which time the timetable for extending the Combat Stress partnership agreement will be agreed.

The Department is working closely with the MOD and service charities to implement these recommendations along with work already in hand to provide a 24-hour helpline service for veterans seeking help from Combat Stress and work to develop an e-learning package for general practitioners on veterans and military health issues.

Following the announcement of the report, the Government announced that it wished to see the report's recommendations taken forward. Funding has been made available from the £2 million already identified in 2010-11 and subsequent Treasury approved funding of up to £1.8 million per annum over the next four years will be used to deliver on the recommendations where the Department has lead responsibility. The MOD is responsible for delivery and funding of those aspects of the report relating to in-service provision of mental health services. Work on assessing any future costs and resource requirements for implementing the recommendations is currently under way and will be assessed as part for the MOD's planning process, but it is not possible to give any financial data at this time.

Health Services: Finance

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to introduce funds similar to the Cancer Drugs Fund for conditions other than cancer; and if he will make a statement. [36691]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no such plans.

Over the next three years, the Government will be working towards a new system of pricing for all new branded medicines, where the price of a drug will be linked to its assessed value. Value-based pricing will bring the price the national health service pays more in line with the value that a new medicine delivers, ie the benefits doctors and patients will see from a drug.

We have published for consultation our proposals for value-based pricing in 'A new value-based approach to the pricing of branded medicines'. The consultation is open until 17 March. A copy has been placed in the Library and the consultation document can be accessed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_122760

Health Services: Waiting Lists

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the *(a)* collection and *(b)* publication of national data on waiting times for operations and diagnostic tests. [36539]

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future *(a)* collection and *(b)* publication of data on waiting times for operations and diagnostic tests nationwide. [36846]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to continue to *(a)* collect and *(b)* publish national data on waiting times for operations and diagnostic tests. [37214]

Mr Simon Burns: As set out in the Revision to the Operating framework for the NHS in England 2010-11, data on referral to treatment waiting times and waits for diagnostic tests will continue to be published and monitored. These data are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/index.htm

and the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories/Pages/ServiceSearch.aspx

Commissioners can use this information as an additional measure for performance managing providers. Patients can use this information to inform their choices about their health care, for example, which provider they wish to be referred to. Further improvement in waiting times will be driven by publication of waiting times data, patient choice, sanctions in contracts and competition between services.

Hospitals: Admissions

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency admissions there were *(a)* to each hospital in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* on average in hospitals in England in each of the last five years. [36686]

Mr Simon Burns: Data are not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of emergency admissions in Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in each of the last five years, and the total number of emergency admissions in England in each of the last five years.

		Number
	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	*England*
2009-10	54,512	5,177,887
2008-09	53,345	5,010,670
2007-08	50,881	4,753,368
2006-07	50,208	4,700,017
2005-06	48,738	4,659,054

Notes:
1. Data are for finished admission episodes. The same person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. The quality and coverage of HES data have improved over time, which will affect patterns of growth in activity.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Hospitals: Childbirth

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births there were at *(a)* Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth hospital, Woolwich, *(c)* Darent Valley hospital, Dartford and *(d)* Princess Royal hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years. [36804]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many births there were at (a) Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, (b) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, (c) Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford and (d) Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years. [36804]

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in selected hospitals, 2005 to 2009

Communal establishment	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough	3,400	3,562	3,631	3,667	3,777
Queen Mary Hospital, Sidcup	2,845	2,874	3,027	3,026	3,005
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich	3,764	3,953	4,206	4,036	4,000
Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford	2,804	2,881	3,209	3,147	3,529

Influenza: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of availability of influenza vaccinations in the London borough of Bexley. [36802]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Warrington North (Helen Jones) on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 850-51W.

Injuries: Older People

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of injuries that have resulted from falls amongst the elderly in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [36332]

Paul Burstow: Falls are a major cause of in-patient activity for the national health service. There were 274,103 finished admission episodes in 2009-10. The data provided relate only to patients aged 65 and over in England with external injury resulting from a fall who receive in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. This does not include those elderly people who were seen and treated at accident and emergency.

Learning Disability: Wolverhampton

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans are in place to improve the provision of support services for children and adults with learning difficulties in Wolverhampton. [36400]

Paul Burstow: The Government remain committed to driving change for adults and children with learning disabilities. Valuing People Now has set priorities until March 2011 of improving outcomes for adults with learning disabilities and their family carers around health, housing and employment. The Government will continue for the future to drive greater personalisation and improved choice and control to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities and will work with people with learning disabilities and their family carers to ensure that their views are included in the future transformation of the national health service and the new social care vision and across other policy areas like employment and housing.

The Department is collaborating with the Department for Education ahead of the publication of the Green Paper on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The Green Paper will explore how we can achieve public services which are centred on the needs of families and children, joining up support from education, health and social care, particularly for those with the most severe and complex needs and at key transitions.

NHS West Midlands undertook a review of Child and Young People Disability Services last year, including learning disabilities. Following these reviews each primary care trust developed an action plan with the local authority. Progress is currently being reviewed.

The Health and Social Care Bill will require the establishment of a health and wellbeing board in every upper tier local authority by April 2013. Health and wellbeing boards will bring together elected representatives, the key NHS, public health, social care, and children's services leaders, and patient representatives to work in partnership. This will ensure services are joined up around the needs of people using them rather than arbitrarily divided into service types, leading to better outcomes for people using services.

Medical Treatments: Shortages

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what reports he has received of current shortages of medicines within the pharmacy retail sector; and if he will make a statement; [36443]

(2) whether his Department is taking steps to reduce the amount of time spent by community pharmacists on sourcing *(a)* Femara (letrozole) and *(b)* other pharmaceutical drugs. [36446]

Mr Simon Burns: Ministers have had representations from supply chain organisations, health care professionals and patients, on the issue of medicines supply. The Department, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and pharmaceutical supply chain stakeholders are working collaboratively to better understand and mitigate the impact of supply difficulties so that patients receive the medicines they need in a timely manner, and any arrangements take account of the time needed by pharmacists to source the medicines.

We have been in contact with Novartis, the supplier of Femara (letrozole) tablets. They have confirmed that adequate supplies of this medicine are available for United Kingdom patients. If pharmacists have problems obtaining it from their wholesaler, they can contact Novartis customer services to arrange a direct supply to the pharmacy.

The Department is aware of the concerns that pharmacy contractors have raised about the work load caused by shortages and changes in distribution. As part of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 community pharmacy contractual framework funding settlement, recognition was made of the increased time taken by pharmacists and their staff in obtaining medicines, given the shortages being experienced.

Mental Health Services

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cognitive behavioural therapists are working in the NHS in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England. [36445]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Information Centre does not identify this speciality in its annual census. This category of profession is counted under the psychiatry group, and the following table gives the numbers employed as at 30 September 2009, the date of the last NHS Workforce Census.

Table 1: Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical and dental staff within each specialty by specialty group and grade, England, at 30 September 2009

	All staff	
	Number	*Full-time equivalent*
Psychiatry group	9,934	9,220
Child and adolescent psychiatry	1,098	990
Forensic psychiatry	572	549
General psychiatry	6,348	5,943
Learning disabilities	519	454
Old age psychiatry	1,278	1,180
Psychotherapy	119	104

Source: The Information Centre, Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were treated under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme in each quarter of the last three years; [36813]

(2) how many therapists have been trained under the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme in each quarter of the last three years. [36814]

Paul Burstow: The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme began treating patients in October 2008 and the latest figures available are for the quarter that ended in September 2010. These figures give the number of patients entering treatment in the first two years of activity. The total is 399,460 and the programme is on track to achieve its objective of treating 900,000 patients in the first three years.

	Patients entering IAPT treatment
2008	
October to December	17,401
2009	
January to March	26,391
April to June	23,074
July to September	21,991
October to December	61,703
2010	
January to March	75,179
April to June	83,946
July to September	89,775

With regard to the number of therapists that have been trained, we do not collect this information in the format requested. However, the following table shows the total numbers beginning training in each of the last three years.

	IAPT trainees in place
2008-09	860
2009-10	1,627
2010-11	1,173
Total	3,660

About 900 existing therapists have been trained in supervision to support the trainees.

About 1,450 existing therapists have received top-up training to comply with IAPT quality standards.

The Health settlement in the spending review included funding to expand access to talking therapies. The money will complete the roll-out of the nationwide training programme and services which began in 2008 and begin to extend the benefits of talking therapies to the young, the elderly, those with serious mental illness and those who have anxiety disorders or depression alongside long-term physical health conditions like diabetes, heart or lung disease. By March 2011, the roll-out will achieve 60% geographical coverage of England. The spending review settlement will complete this by 2014-15.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 130W, on mental health services: manpower, what progress the Government has made on meeting its target to have 3,650 new therapy workers in place in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme by April 2011. [36816]

Paul Burstow: By January 2011 3,660 new therapy workers were in place. We will shortly publish a cross-Government mental health strategy and Improving Access to Psychological Therapies implementation plan which will set out the next steps.

Mental Health: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS budget for medical research was spent on research into mental health issues each year since 2005. [36457]

Paul Burstow: The proportion of the national health service research and development (R and D) revenue budget spent on research into mental health issues is shown in the following table.

	Proportion (%)
2005-06	9.7
2006-07	9.7
2007-08	9.0
2008-09	8.6
2009-10	[1]—

[1] Not yet available.

Data on NHS R and D spend on mental health issues in 2009-10 are currently being identified by National Institute for Health Research co-ordinating centres. The Department expects that information on the proportion of the NHS R and D budget spent on mental health research in that year will be available shortly, and I will place a copy in the Library.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA infection were identified in NHS facilities in 2010. [36435]

Mr Simon Burns: There are currently published data available for the first 11 months of 2010, providing details of the number of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemias (bloodstream infections). A full year's data for 2010 will be available when data for December 2010 are published on 2 February 2010.

Published monthly data indicate that between January 2010 and November 2010 there were a total of 1,514 MRSA bacteraemias reported by acute national health service trusts in England. Of this number, 766 were apportioned to acute trusts.

Notes:

1. All acute trusts in England are obliged to report all cases of MRSA bloodstream infection to the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Data on other MRSA infections, that did not enter the bloodstream, are not included as they are not part of this mandatory surveillance system.

2. Trusts report all cases for which their laboratories process the specimens. This may not always reflect where the infection was acquired.

3. MRSA bacteraemias are considered to be 'trust apportioned' cases if they meet all of these three criterion:

the location where the specimen was taken is 'acute trust' or is not known;

the patient is an in-patient, emergency assessment, or is not known; and

the date that the specimen was taken was on or after day three of admission to hospital (where the day of admission is day one).

NHS Direct

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to NHS Direct have resulted in *(a)* a home visit from a GP and *(b)* an emergency referral to hospital in each of the last three years. [36698]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested regarding general practitioner (GP) home visit referrals is not collected, as GP home visits are not available as part of NHS Direct's core 0845 4647 service.

The information requested regarding emergency referrals is shown in the following table:

Number of emergency referrals from NHS Direct's 0845 4647 service, 2008-10

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Accident and Emergency	337,773	313,109	357,245
999	152,074	145,168	169,947

Source:
Validated but unpublished information on emergency referrals from NHS Direct.

NHS Direct: Manpower

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed at each NHS Direct contact centre; and what the number of calls received by each call centre was in each of the last three years. [36697]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Number of full-time equivalent front-line staff (including health advisers, nurse advisers, senior nurse advisers, health information advisers, and dental nurse advisers) at each NHS Direct contact centre, 2008-10

	September each year		
Contact centre	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Chesterfield	14.28	10.59	13.37
Derby	14.43	10.11	12.45
Mansfield	19.10	19.14	20.54
Nottingham	115.95	118.41	103.04
Bedford	60.22	56.38	56.16
Chelmsford	73.55	70.57	56.41
Ipswich	14.56	10.88	14.08
Norwich	20.78	21.66	18.37
Beckenham	65.36	57.47	51.26
Stevenage	—	7.13	—
Ilford	32.70	30.46	28.68
Southall	46.04	—	—
Blackburn	5.60	9.40	8.80
Bolton	143.84	136.57	118.09
Bolton Middlebrook	—	—	1.60
Carlisle	14.00	12.63	10.99
Dental services	11.15	21.39	14.40
Hull	50.20	42.00	43.55
Kendal	9.48	7.44	6.12
Liverpool	6.33	8.64	7.51
Nantwich	22.75	31.84	28.00
Newcastle	115.80	120.55	107.94
Sheffield	48.58	49.66	45.69
Stockton	14.81	16.21	19.01
Wakefield	101.74	116.43	120.70
West Yorkshire Urgent Care	—	26.68	13.11
AZ Asthma Project	6.41	—	—
Caterham	22.68	22.88	22.32
Chatham	43.45	51.95	41.97
Milton Keynes	56.23	59.17	50.24
Southampton	67.41	60.64	55.29
Bristol	84.65	85.56	76.99
Exeter	52.32	56.64	52.61
Ferndown	9.53	9.47	6.53
Plymouth	9.87	6.20	5.53
Taunton	7.60	8.60	7.00
Truro	6.53	8.40	6.51
Dudley	96.04	91.47	86.50
Stafford	83.36	64.68	62.40
Total	1,567.34	1,537.91	1,393.77

Note:
The number of calls received by each contact centre is not collected, however the total number of calls to NHS Direct is shown in the following table:
Source:
Validated but unpublished information from NHS Direct.

Total calls to NHS Direct (including calls to 0845 4647 and other commissioned services)

	2008	*2009*	*2010*
Calls to NHS Direct	5,699,037	5,670,555	5,045,476

Source:
Validated but unpublished information from NHS Direct.

NHS: Drugs

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value was of each contract placed with *(a)* GlaxoSmithKline, *(b)* Pfizer, *(c)* Sanofi Aventis, *(d)* AstraZeneca and *(e)* Novartis by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [37075]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department and its agencies have undertaken contracting activity with the named suppliers over the past five years in the following areas:

1. Contracts for supply to the Department in the areas of childhood vaccines, pandemic preparedness, essential medicines stockpiles and emergency preparedness planning.

2. Framework agreements let by the Department (and prior to January 2010 the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) for supply of medicines to national health service trusts.

Information on contracts in support of the pandemic influenza preparedness, emergency preparedness and the childhood vaccines programmes cannot be provided as it is deemed to be commercially confidential.

The estimated monetary value, excluding VAT, of essential medicines contracts and framework agreements used by the national health service placed with the named suppliers by the Department in the last five years is recorded in the following table:

Supplier name	*Category*	*Sum of contract value in period (£1)*[2]	*Number of framework agreements/ contracts*
Astra Zeneca	Branded medicines	2,371	1
Astra Zeneca total		2,371	1
Novartis	Branded medicines	118,660,700	25
	Generic medicines	73,253,525	15
Novartis total		191,914,225	40
Pfizer	Branded medicines	72,915,281	21
	Generic medicines	18,168,448	15
Pfizer total		91,083,729	36
Sanofi Aventis	Branded medicines	220,833,713	33
	Generic medicines	16,841,125	15
	Essential medicines[1]	12,617,385	3
Sanofi Aventis total		250,292,224	51
GlaxoSmith Kline	Branded medicines	185,499,263	20
	Generic medicines	17,349,368	17
GlaxoSmith Kline total		202,848,630	37
Grand total		736,141,180	165

[1] Essential medicines represent exact invoiced expenditure.
[2] Values are shown to the nearest £1 total.

The values provided for branded and generic medicines supplied via framework agreements are based on estimated spend and may not reflect actual expenditure under the contracts.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any former officials of his Department have sought permission to join *(a)* GlaxoSmithKline, *(b)* Pfizer, *(c)* Sanofi-aventis, *(d)* AstraZeneca and *(e)* Novartis in the last 12 months. [37076]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last 12 months, no official or former official from the Department has sought permission to join GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, Sanofi-aventis, Astra Zeneca or Novartis.

All civil servants must obtain Government approval before taking any form of full-time, part-time or fee-paid employment in the United Kingdom, or overseas, with a public or private company or in the service of a foreign Government or their agencies. This rule also applies to any former civil servant within two years of their leaving Crown employment.

Since January 2009, 36 departmental employees or former employees submitted applications seeking approval to take up outside business appointments. Of these, 13 applications were approved unconditionally and 24 had restrictions imposed. Restrictions imposed are usually in the form of a period of delay between leaving the civil service and taking up the external post.

Northwick Park Hospital: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical staff were employed at Northwick Park hospital on 1 April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [36649]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held in the format requested. Information is available at trust level.

National health service staff in the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust by main staff group

	Headcount at 30 April 2010
All Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) doctors (non locum)	724
All HCHS doctors (locum)	12
All Non-Medical staff	3,785
Professionally qualified clinical staff	2,201
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,473
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	728
Support to clinical staff	1,180
Support to doctors and nursing staff	955
Support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	226
NHS infrastructure support	408
Central functions	262
Hotel, property and estates	66
Managers and senior managers	80

Notes:

1. Headcount totals are unlikely to equal the sum of components. When overall headcount figures are split into subcategories, the sum of the subtotals may exceed the overall sum due to inclusion of staff in multiple subcategories.
2. Monthly data are extracted on the final day of each month. The data in the table, therefore, are in respect of 30 April 2010, which is the date nearest to, and after, the date specified in the question.
3. As from 21 July 2010, the NHS Information Centre has published experimental, provisional monthly NHS workforce data. Figures obtained from provisional, experimental statistics may be revised from month to month as issues are uncovered and resolved. The monthly workforce data is not directly comparable with the annual workforce census. It only includes those staff on the Electronic Staff Record and does not include primary care staff or bank staff. It also includes locum doctors (not counted in the annual census). There are also new methods of presenting data; headcount methodology has changed and there is now a role count. This information is available, in respect of September 2009 onwards, at the following website:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/provisionalmonthlyhchsworkforce

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data, but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Provisional Monthly Workforce Statistics

Northwick Park Hospital: Operations

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out at Northwick Park hospital in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [36650]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not held in the format requested. Information is available at trust level.

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where a primary or secondary procedure or intervention was carried out in Northwest London Hospitals NHS Trust

	Number of FCEs
2009-10	63,611
2008-09	61,517
2007-08	59,766
2006-07	56,314
2005-06	54,875

Notes:

1. Data are provided in respect of Northwest London Hospitals NHS Trust rather than Northwick Park Hospital, as hospital level data are not held centrally.
2. The data provided in the table refer to the number of episodes of care where at least one procedure or intervention was carried out, rather than a count of the number of operations, which is not collected as part of the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES).
3. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.
4. Number of episodes with a main or secondary procedure: The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in an HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.
5. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so are no longer included in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre, Hospital Episode Statistics

Out-patients: Attendance

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of appointments missed by patients for hospital appointments were *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Yorkshire in the latest period for which figures are available and what estimate he has made of the costs to the NHS of such missed appointments in the latest period for which figures are available. [36660]

Mr Simon Burns: The rates of missed appointments nationally and in Yorkshire in the latest period for which figures are available are shown in the following table.

Rate of missed appointments for primary care trust commissioners in England and Yorkshire: Quarter 2 of 2010-11

Name	*Total attendances*	*Total attendances not attended*	*Did not attend rate (percentage)*
England	14,709,875	1,448,674	9.85
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	1,561,877	141,181	9.04

Source:

Department of Health Quarterly Activity Return

The Department does not collect data on the costs to the national health service of missed appointments.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the future of Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup. [36525]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State has received various representations, including correspondence, parliamentary questions, meetings, telephone calls and ministerial visits, from a range of parties on the future of Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup.

Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the temporary closure of the accident and emergency department at Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup on services at *(a)* Queen Elizabeth hospital, Woolwich, *(b)* Princess Royal hospital, Farnborough and *(c)* Darent Valley hospital, Dartford. [36524]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service. NHS London is assured that the temporary closure of the accident and emergency department at Queen Mary's hospital, Sidcup was on the grounds of clinical safety.

Roding Hospital: Standards

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on *(a)* the standard of training in resuscitation techniques at the Roding hospital and *(b)* the death of Charles Leahy at that hospital; and if he will make a statement. [36365]

Mr Simon Burns: We have received representations on these issues from one member of the public and from one Member of Parliament. Health care providers in England, including independent sector hospitals, are required to register with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and to meet registration requirements that set essential levels of safety and quality. The CQC has a range of enforcement powers that it can use if providers do not meet the registration requirements.

School Meals

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of health regulations in respect of school meals. [24896]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

In September 2009, Ofsted undertook a thematic review of food provision in 38 schools. The review found that good progress has been made towards meeting the school food standards, with most schools providing evidence that their lunchtime menus had been analysed against the nutrient-based standards. The majority of the primary schools and some of the secondary schools met the standards in full. The report, "Food in schools—Progress in implementing the new standards", is available on Ofsted's website at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk

The School Food Trust undertook a study of the food and drink provision in 136 primary schools in 2009. The findings suggest that the food provided, choices and consumption were healthier by comparison with the primary school food survey undertaken in 2005. A full report is available on the School Food Trust's website at:

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk

A similar survey is currently being conducted in secondary schools. Findings are expected to be published in December 2011.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure the effectiveness of campaigns to limit the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. [36597]

Anne Milton: It is departmental practice to continually evaluate national-level sexual health campaigns to ensure that they are effective.

Smoking: Cheshire

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the smoking prevalence rate is in *(a)* Halton and St Helens, *(b)* Western Cheshire and *(c)* East and Central Cheshire primary care trust area. [36388]

Anne Milton: Smoking prevalence rates are not available for primary care trust areas. Smoking prevalence rates for the period April 2009 to March 2010 among adults aged 18 or over in the relevant local authorities are shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Smoking prevalence among adults aged 18 or over as a percentage April 2009 to March 2010*
Halton	24.3
St Helens	24.5
Cheshire West and Chester	20.5
Cheshire East	19.0

Source:
Department of Health. Figures are based on experimental data from the Office for National Statistics' Integrated Household Survey, which are subject to possible revision.

Strokes: Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on the likely effect on specialist stroke networks of his proposed changes to the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [36433]

Mr Simon Burns: The stroke clinical networks and the central team that supports them will continue to be funded in 2011-12. During 2011-12, consideration will be given to where the functions undertaken by these networks will best fit into the new arrangements.

Strokes: Patients

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to increase the level of early supported discharge for stroke patients; and if he will make a statement; [36528]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to increase the involvement of adult social services departments in early supported discharge for stroke patients. [36769]

Mr Simon Burns: The accelerating stroke improvement programme has been working via networks to increase the proportion of patients supported by a stroke-skilled early supported discharge team. This work has included promoting engagement between health and social care providers.

The Health and Social Care Bill sets out new arrangements for the national health service. These include setting up health and well-being boards, which will bring together elected representatives and the key NHS, public health, social care leaders and patient representatives to work in partnership. This will ensure service, are joined up around the needs of people using them, and that resources are invested in the best way to improve outcomes for local communities, including consideration of co-ordination of care across health and social care boundaries.

Strokes: Physiotherapy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure greater provision of specialist stroke physiotherapy in the community. [36527]

Mr Simon Burns: The provision of appropriate, tailored and flexible rehabilitation is known to improve long-term recovery and reduce long-term disability in people with stroke. The accelerating stroke improvement programme has a focus on improving access to early supported discharge arrangements which will support development of stroke specific rehabilitation, including physiotherapy, in the community.

The changes planned in the way the national health service is organised are aimed at ensuring services are commissioned in a way that joins up health and social care provision and focuses on the needs of the individual as a whole. This will help to ensure that each patient receives the right services and support.

Sunbeds: Liverpool

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of teenagers in Liverpool who regularly use sunbeds. [36820]

Anne Milton: The Department does not routinely collect information on the number and age of persons using sunbeds in England. However, Cancer Research UK in 2009 undertook a study of 'Six Cities' looking at variations in sunbed use by 11 to 17-year-olds, which included Liverpool. Information on the study is available at:

http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/skin/sunbeds

The South West Public Health Observatory study (SWPHO) also provided data on sunbeds in different parts of the country. The study is available on its website:

www.swpho.nhs.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=68377

Further information is available from the report of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment.

www.comare.org.uk/documents/COMARE13thReport.pdf

Surgery

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of elective surgery there were *(a)* in each hospital in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* on average in hospitals in England in each of the last five years. [36687]

Mr Simon Burns: Data on the number of instances of elective surgery at individual hospital level are not collected centrally. The numbers of elective finished admission episodes with either a main procedure or intervention for Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and the average for hospital providers in England, are shown in the following table:

Elective finished admission episodes with a main procedure or intervention

Number

	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	*England*		
	Total elective finished admission episodes	*Total elective finished admission episodes*	*Number of hospital providers which submitted data to HES*[1]	*Average number of finished elective admission episodes per provider*
2009-10	47,832	6,691,947	447	14,971
2008-09	46,739	6,429,141	451	14,255
2007-08	44,466	5,968,760	422	14,144
2006-07	42,207	5,556,285	368	15,099
2005-06	41,859	5,263,714	511	10,301

[1] Hospital providers are organisations acting as a health care provider, including NHS trusts, PCTs and may include treatment centres and independent sector providers.

Note:

Elective finished admission episodes do not represent the number of inpatients as a person may have more than one admission in a year.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Tattoos

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 on the licensing of tattooists and the prevention of children under the age of 16 years being tattooed; and if he will make a statement. [36652]

Anne Milton: The implementation of provisions to regulate tattooing in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 is a matter for local authorities, as they decide whether the legislation should be enacted in their area according to local circumstances. Similarly, the tattooing of minors, which is an offence under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969, is also an issue best addressed locally.

Teenage Pregnancy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of births with mothers aged 15 to 17 years was in each *(a)* local authority area, *(b)* health authority area and *(c)* constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [35842]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of births with mothers aged 15 to 17 years was in each (a) local authority area, (b) health authority area and (c) constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [35842].

The tables provide rates of live births in England and Wales to mothers aged under 18 in each (a) Local Authority District and (b) Primary Care Organisation for 2009, the most recent year for which figures are available.

A copy of these tables has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Due to the sensitive nature of teenage pregnancies and the risk of identifying individuals, ONS does not publish births to mothers aged under 18 for smaller areas. Consequently, rates by (c) parliamentary constituency are not provided.

Information on live births is routinely published at different geographies in the 'Live births by area of usual residence' package on the ONS website. The information is available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Produc[illegible]p?vlnk=14408

Wheelchairs

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to implement the recommendations of "Raising our Sights", the Mansell report on wheelchair services; and if he will make a statement. [36386]

Paul Burstow: Departmental officials are currently looking very carefully at the detailed recommendations, including those on wheelchair services set out in this report and how these support our objectives to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities who have complex needs and their families. The elements of good service and the good practice examples included in this report sit very clearly within the programme of work which the Government are leading to support independent living for people with learning disabilities and to support local service planning and commissioning to meet identified needs in their locality.

The Department's response to this report will be published shortly.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 68W, on animal experiments, by what date she expects a ban on the testing of household products on animals to have been implemented. [36586]

Lynne Featherstone: I am not yet in a position to give a date on when a ban on the testing of household products on animals will be implemented.

We are currently finalising the practical arrangements for its implementation. I expect to announce these arrangements shortly.

Arrest Warrants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on detaining persons subject to a request under a European arrest warrant since the inception of such warrants. [35977]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office has not incurred any costs associated with the detention of persons in custody pursuant to European arrest warrants. The cost of detaining a person in a prison in England and Wales would be a matter for the Secretary of State for Justice. The Home Office understands, however, that the National Offender Management Service's ('NOMS') computer system does not record the relevant data.

Asylum: Housing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 398-99W, on asylum: housing, whether she has made an assessment of the proportion of *(a)* all people seeking asylum and *(b)* people seeking asylum with children at school who will be required to move as a result of the reduction in the number of individual and consortia of local authorities who provide housing to people seeking asylum through contracts with the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [36275]

Damian Green: As part of the process of extending some contracts, all providers were asked specifically to respond, detailing how they intended to minimise disruption to asylum seekers during any relocation process. The responses were evaluated prior to decisions being taken to extend current contracts.

Up to 900 families remain potentially affected by relocations. Discussions continue with accommodation providers in order to establish the true number of families likely to be subject to a physical move, the extent to which this could involve disruption for school age children and the mitigation that can be put in place around this.

Counter-terrorism

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will set up a judicial inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 into the use of undercover police officers to investigate peaceful protest groups and their constituent members and the policing of peaceful protest; and if she will make a statement; [36281]

(2) on what date the three Association of Chief Police Officers units involved in tackling domestic extremism will be moved to the Metropolitan Police Service and made subject to its governance systems; and if she will make a statement; [36279]

(3) which hon. Members are listed on the domestic extremism database. [36284]

Nick Herbert: The Government do not consider that a judicial inquiry is needed in view of: the IPCC investigation into the disclosure of material by Nottinghamshire police relating to the discontinued trial of six individuals; Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's wider review of intelligence handling by national domestic extremism police units; and an operational review by the Serious Organised Crime Agency into the actions and handling of Mark Kennedy during his deployment as an undercover officer.

The Government support plans to move the governance of the national domestic extremism police units to a lead police force. A date for the transfer has not yet been agreed.

The Home Office does not have access to a police database of domestic extremists, and nor does it hold the information on police databases of domestic extremists. It is open to any individual to make a Subject Access Request to the police under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Criminal Records Bureau: Finance

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what savings to the public purse in monetary terms she expects as a result of planned changes to the Criminal Records Bureau budget in each year of the comprehensive spending review period; [35601]

(2) if she will place in the Library the criteria the Criminal Records Bureau is using to determine the reduction in staffing levels over the comprehensive spending review period. [35602]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has been given a provisional target of a reduction of 100 posts over a four-year period as part of the Government-wide comprehensive spending review 2010. CRB senior management will consult with its stakeholders, including the Home Office and the trade union side, on how these reductions will be made and the criteria that will be applied. In doing so, CRB will apply the Home Office's Restructuring, Redeployment and Redundancy policy.

It is too soon to establish the savings over the four-year period of the review, but it is expected that the reduction in staffing levels will eventually result in annual savings of £2.7 million against our baseline of £17.15 million.

Departmental Civil Servants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* name and *(b)* salary is of each senior civil servant who has left her Department since May 2010. [36640]

Damian Green: The Department's obligations under the Data Protection Act do not allow us to disclose, to a third party, personal information.

In the period from 1 May 2010 to 26 January 2011, 39 senior civil servants have permanently left the Department and its agencies. Of these, 27 were senior civil servants (SCS) pay band 1, nine were SCS pay band 2, two were SCS pay band 3 and one was the permanent secretary.

The pay range for SCS pay band 1 is £58,200-£117,800; the pay range for SCS pay band 2 level is £82,900-£162,500 and pay range for SCS pay band 3 level is £101,500-£208,500.

Departmental Communication

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures she has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35784]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office endeavours to use plain English in all channels used to communicate with the public (e.g. websites, correspondence etc). We have policies in place that insist that all content is written in plain English and jargon-free language. All communication is checked against departmental style guides for ease of understanding, including removal of jargon.

All staff contributing to our channels are trained in the use of plain English.

The Home Office website has been accredited with the Crystal Mark by the plain English campaign and promotes the use of straightforward, well-structured language..We also base our written communications on recommendations by the plain English campaign.

Plain English is also promoted in replies from across the Department to correspondence from the public and MPs.

Departmental Consultants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on consultancy since May 2010. [36642]

Damian Green: The Home Department spent a total of £34 million on consultancy services from the beginning of May to the end of December 2010. The Department is on track to reduce consultancy spend by 50% by the end of this financial year.

Departmental Press Releases

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 1214W, on departmental press releases, what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date, *(c)* time and *(d)* subject was of each of the formal briefings; and whether her Department has provided informal briefings to the media since 26 May 2010. [34229]

Nick Herbert: The purpose of formal briefings is to provide media outlets with accurate information setting out the purpose and intention of policy announcements and to provide an explanation of specialist information such as statistical releases.

The date and subject of each of the nine formal media briefings held since 26 May 2010 is shown in the following table. Timings are not recorded. The Department has not provided informal briefings to the media since 26 May 2010.

Media briefings held since 26 May 2010

Date	*Subject*
27 May	Announcement of cancellation of the National Identity Scheme and identity cards
28 June	Announcement of Interim Immigration on non-European workers Limit (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic Media)
28 June	Announcement of Interim Immigration Limit
15 July	Annual Crime Statistics publication 2009/10
26 July	Publication of Policing in the 21st Century
20 October	Comprehensive Spending Review announced impact on Home Office budget
28 October	Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation—arrest, outcomes and stops and searches, Great Britain, 2009/10 statistical release
23 November	Policy announcement - Immigration Limit on non-European workers
1 December	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill publication

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34595]

Nick Herbert: The Department's policy is to work towards a target of eight square metres (of office space) per full-time equivalent. This excludes operational or specialised space such as public caller facilities.

Home working is one of several flexible working options we support for staff.

Hot desking is provided as one way of sharing workstations so as to achieve greater efficiency in the use of space.

As at 1 April 2010, for buildings over 500m^2, the Department had 1.2 workstations and 13.2 square metres per full-time equivalent employee as reported by the property benchmarking service provided through the Government property unit. The Department has an extensive estates consolidation programme under way which will reduce the use of space significantly over the next three years and help deliver the eight square metre target.

Detainees: Asylum

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum cases were removed from the detained fast track procedure in each year since 2005. [34913]

Damian Green: All figures are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Detention Centres

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure her Department incurred in respect of each immigration detention centre in 2009-10; and if she will make a statement. [37385]

Damian Green: The operating costs for the immigration removal estate are commercially confidential. Disclosure will prejudice the commercial interests of the UK Border Agency and its operators.

DNA: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the electronic form of DNA raw data samples is analysed in batches of up to 82 samples. [36624]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: The electronic form of DNA raw data samples is analysed in batches of 82 samples to take advantage of economies of scale and is common practice in DNA laboratories world-wide. The batch of 82 also includes a number of positive and negative control samples.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples deleted from the National DNA Database the Forensic Science Service has stored in raw data form; and how much of this raw data has been analysed by barcode. [36626]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: All samples analysed by the Forensic Science Service (FSS) are anonymised, and are identifiable only by barcode. We do not hold information on the number of DNA samples stored in raw data form which have been deleted from the National DNA Database.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which departments and agencies are able to access barcodes relating to DNA raw data samples from the National DNA Database. [36627]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is the only agency that has access to records of barcodes held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason individuals whose DNA record has been deleted from the National DNA Database are not informed that the deletion has taken place; and if she will take steps to ensure such notification happens as a matter of course. [36810]

James Brokenshire: Details are removed from the National DNA Database for a number of different reasons and it would not be practical or cost effective to make individual notifications in each case. However, this information is available upon request from the relevant police force.

We will be announcing further details about our policy on the future retention and destruction of DNA shortly.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether (1) she plans to extend the pilot project for women with no recourse to public funds beyond March 2011; [37360]

(2) funding has been allocated to women with no recourse to public funds to seek refuge from domestic abuse after the end of the pilot period in March 2011. [37361]

Damian Green: The Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009. In the strategic narrative "Call to End Violence against Women and Girls" on 25 November 2010, the Home Secretary confirmed her intention to ensure that the Home Office continues to fund support for women in the UK on spouse visas who are victims of domestic violence until an effective and sustainable permanent solution is established.

The Home Office has confirmed that funding will be available for the pilot to continue into the financial year 2011-12 and that work on a long-term solution continues.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has conducted of the effect on the economy in *(a)* Glasgow, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK of the UK Border Agency's proposed restrictions on the conditions applicable to grants of student visas. [36843]

Damian Green: The consultation on the student immigration system closes on 31 January. The consultation is seeking the views of all respondents on the effect of the proposals. The results of the consultation will be announced in due course.

Extradition

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the extent of parity in extradition processes between the UK and *(a)* other OECD countries, *(b)* countries in the Americas and *(c)* South Africa. [36131]

Nick Herbert: No such assessment has been made; the Government have commissioned an independent review into the UK's extradition arrangements, to ensure they operate effectively and in the interests of justice. This review is being led by Sir Scott Baker and the panel is due to report back by September 2011.

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received on procedures for the extradition of UK citizens to South Africa. [36132]

Nick Herbert: No representations have been received.

Forensic Science Service

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost per head of the population of providing the Forensic Science Service in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available. [36480]

James Brokenshire: We have not estimated the cost per head of the population of providing forensic science services in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her figures for the losses per month by the Forensic Science Service (FSS) take of the likely savings arising from the closure of FSS laboratories at Chepstow, Chorley and Birmingham. [36481]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) operating losses of £2 million a month, which we referred to in our announcement on 14 December 2010, are current losses and therefore do not take into account any savings delivered through planned FSS site closures, nor do they take into account further likely declines in FSS business.

Forensic Science Service: United Arab Emirates

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts there were between the Forensic Science Service and the United Arab Emirates in each year since 2006; what the start and end dates of each contract were; what the monetary value of each contract was; and what work was undertaken in respect of each contract. [36495]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: Following is a table of all services and products delivered by the Forensic Science Service (FSS) to customers based in the United Arab Emirates between January 2006 and December 2010. These contracts do not allow the FSS to divulge exact customer details (ie which of the Emirates) or the value of the contract.

Start	*End*	*Description of services*
January 2006	March 2009	Supply of consultancy and training to improve forensic practices towards achieving internationally recognised quality standards
		Supply of FSS proprietary DNA Database software and associated services
December 2006	December 2010	Supply of FSS proprietary DNA Database software and associated services
March 2007	October 2009	Supply of FSS proprietary mobile phone examination equipment and associated services
February 2008	March 2009	Supply of forensic examination and evidence collection kits via Scenesafe (a business division of the FSS)
September 2009	March 2010	Supply of strategic forensic consultancy
October 2010	October 2010	Supply of consultancy towards achieving internationally recognised quality standards
October 2010	October 2010	Supply of FSS DNA expert software plus associated services
October 2010	November 2010	Supply of crime scene associated training
November 2010	In progress	Supply of consultancy and training for the delivery of DNA profiling capacity
		Supply of FSS proprietary DNA Database software and associated services
		Supply of FSS DNA expert software plus associated services

Human Trafficking

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet trustees and officers of the Dalit Freedom Network UK prior to finalising her policy on human trafficking; and what recent meetings she has had with other non-governmental organisations engaged in anti-trafficking work. [36784]

Damian Green: The voluntary sector plays a key role in the provision of support to victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Home Office officials are in the process of contacting non-governmental organisations to discuss development of the forthcoming strategy.

Identity and Passport Service: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff at each grade were employed by the Identity and Passport Service in Northern Ireland in each year since its formation. [36992]

Damian Green: The available information is given in the following table.

Employee numbers are for the last four years only. Information prior to 2007 can be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Data extracted from Snowdrop on 26 January 2011

Count of name *Grade*	*Part-time? (Yes/No)*	*Total*
1 January 2007		
EO	No	29

Data extracted from Snowdrop on 26 January 2011

Count of name *Grade*	*Part-time? (Yes/No)*	*Total*
	Yes	3
EO total	—	32
HEO	No	9
HEO total	—	9
PO1	No	9
	Yes	2
PO1 total	—	11
PO2	No	11
	Yes	3
PO2 total	—	14
PO3	No	78
	Yes	10
PO3 total	—	88
SEO	No	4
SEO total	—	4
Grand total	—	158
1 January 2008		
EO	No	28
	Yes	1
EO total	—	29
HEO	No	8
HEO total	—	8
PO1	No	12
	Yes	2
PO1 total	—	14
PO2	No	11
PO2 total	—	11
PO3	No	78
	Yes	10
PO3 total	—	88
SEO	No	4
SEO total	—	4
Grand total	—	154
1 January 2009		
EO	No	28
	Yes	1
EO total	—	29
HEO	No	8
HEO total	—	8
PO1	No	17
	Yes	2
PO1 total	—	19
PO2	No	13

Data extracted from Snowdrop on 26 January 2011

Count of name *Grade*	*Part-time? (Yes/No)*	*Total*
PO2 total	—	13
PO3	No	77
	Yes	9
PO3 total	—	86
SEO	No	4
SEO total	—	4
Grand total	—	159
1 January 2010		
EO	No	27
	Yes	1
EO total	—	28
HEO	No	8
HEO total	—	8
PO1	No	17
	Yes	2
PO1 total	—	19
PO2	No	12
PO2 total	—	12
PO3	No	71
	Yes	8
PO3 total	—	79
SEO	No	4
SEO total	—	4
Grand total	—	150

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason there was an increase in the number of persons detained under Immigration Act powers in the third quarter of 2010; what her estimate is of the number of persons who will be detained under Immigration Act powers in each of the next eight quarters; and if she will make a statement. [36214]

Damian Green: While there was an increase in the number of persons detained under Immigration Act powers in the third quarter of 2010, it is worth noting that the data are a snapshot. They only show the number detained on the last day of the reporting period. Therefore, on any other date during the quarter (or in previous quarters) the number detained could have been higher or lower.

The increase in the detained population may have been, partially, a result of the opening of Harmondsworth immigration removal centre, which provided additional detention space for Immigration Group to progress cases through to removal. There were 360 more adult detainees at Harmondsworth, comparing Q2 of 2010 to Q3 (from 250 to 610). The population at Oakington dropped from 395 to 100, but the fall was less than the rise of the detained Harmondsworth population.

The increase may have also occurred due to a higher than average number of charter flight removal operations during that period, in which individuals would have required detention prior to removal.

There is no specific estimate for the number of persons who will be detained in the next eight quarters. However, our aim is to maintain and improve the number of removals over the next two years, which will inevitably require detention.

Immigration

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of people who have been waiting more than six months for a decision on their immigration status; and if she will make a statement. [33587]

Damian Green: The total number of people who have been waiting more than six months for a decision on their immigration status is 20,081. This is broken down into 3,980 waiting for an asylum initial decision (this includes 'legacy' cases), and 16,101 waiting for a non-asylum initial decision.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer the letter sent to her by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 6 December 2010 with regard to Mr T. Tinsley. [34750]

Nick Herbert: The Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism, my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Jones, wrote to the right hon. Gentleman on 20 January 2011.

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of *(a)* 2 November, *(b)* 7 December and *(c)* 9 December 2010 regarding a constituent, Mr Miah. [35835]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* I apologise for the delay in replying. The Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism, my noble Friend Baroness Neville-Jones, replied on 25 January 2011. A copy of the letter will be placed in the House Library.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to answer the letter sent to the Minister for Immigration by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 11 November 2010, with regard to Ms Sundus Saeed. [37229]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Gentleman on 3 December 2010.

Neighbourhood Policing Fund

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated to the Neighbourhood Policing Fund in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [36056]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* A transitional Neighbourhood Policing Fund will be in place for the first two years of the comprehensive spending review period before being devolved to police and crime commissioners. The amount will be £340 million in 2011-12 and £338 million in 2012-13. This includes amounts to be paid to the Metropolitan Police Authority, where conditions of the grant will be revoked in recognition of the role that the Mayor of London and the deputy mayor of policing already play.

Police Community Support Officers

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Departments holds on the age profile of police community support officers in each police force. [36415]

Nick Herbert: Figures are collected in the following age groups: 25 and under, 26 to 40, 41 to 55 and over 55. The latest available data are provided in the following table, which shows the age groups of police community support officers by police force area in England and Wales as at 31 March 2010 (headcount).

Police community support officers (PCSOs) by age group and police force area in England and Wales, as at 31 March 2010 (headcount)[1]

	25 and under	*26 to 40*	*41 to 55*	*Over 55*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	94	195	134	20	443
Bedfordshire	43	45	29	2	119
Cambridgeshire	63	86	53	11	213
Cheshire	70	103	61	5	239
Cleveland	43	106	43	3	195
Cumbria	43	46	26	1	116
Derbyshire	48	81	47	6	182
Devon and Cornwall	55	167	132	20	374
Dorset	54	78	31	4	167
Durham	61	73	38	4	176
Dyfed-Powys	31	32	16	4	83
Essex	131	140	154	34	459
Gloucestershire	20	60	66	7	153
Greater Manchester	195	363	254	33	845
Gwent	31	74	37	3	145
Hampshire	122	134	85	10	351
Hertfordshire	73	111	76	8	268
Humberside	55	179	79	9	322
Kent	136	143	87	25	391
Lancashire	145	165	104	20	434
Leicestershire	59	77	78	23	237
Lincolnshire	33	56	48	16	153
London, City of	24	24	5	—	53
Merseyside	167	180	97	27	471
Metropolitan Police	1,678	1,832	1,048	145	4,703
Norfolk	69	114	84	14	281
Northamptonshire	39	72	52	4	167
Northumbria	113	196	117	23	449
North Wales	44	67	44	5	160

Police community support officers (PCSOs) by age group and police force area in England and Wales, as at 31 March 2010 (headcount)[1]

	25 and under	*26 to 40*	*41 to 55*	*Over 55*	*Total*
North Yorkshire	33	102	56	9	200
Nottinghamshire	93	109	57	15	274
South Wales	88	184	60	8	340
South Yorkshire	70	153	109	5	337
Staffordshire	68	108	60	9	245
Suffolk	43	55	61	16	175
Surrey	76	76	64	16	232
Sussex	71	153	135	24	383
Thames Valley	209	158	132	13	512
Warwickshire	35	63	38	4	140
West Mercia	63	135	71	13	282
West Midlands	241	349	221	15	826
West Yorkshire	236	365	139	36	776
Wiltshire	29	61	32	5	127
Total	5,094	7,070	4,360	674	17,198

[1] All figures are provisional, subject to change and have not been verified by forces.

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there were in each police authority in each year since 2002. [36930]

Nick Herbert: Available data relates to police community support officer strength for each police area in England and Wales, each year from 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2010 and provisional statistics for 30 September 2010. They are provided in the table.

The first police community support officers started work in September 2002, following legislation which was introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002. Therefore, data on police community support officers are not available prior to 31 March 2003.

Police community support officer strength[1] *(FTE)*[2] *by police force as at 31 March 2003 to 2010 and at 30 September 2010*[3]

	As at 31 March:								
Police force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[4]	*2006*[4]	*2007*[4]	*2008*[4]	*2009*[4]	*2010*[4]	*30 September 2010*[4,5]
Avon and Somerset	0	45	139	130	302	377	381	430	424
Bedfordshire	0	12	40	41	83	120	122	116	126
Cambridgeshire	6	57	86	101	184	197	195	209	193
Cheshire	2	50	52	75	176	231	234	237	223
Cleveland	37	77	75	100	114	170	198	193	190
Cumbria	0	0	17	17	85	99	107	111	106
Derbyshire	0	0	43	42	181	166	205	181	185
Devon and Cornwall	19	51	74	74	317	354	362	363	348
Dorset	6	8	47	61	122	151	156	164	152
Durham	10	28	69	67	142	162	171	175	170
Essex	10	86	179	192	388	436	446	445	419
Gloucestershire	0	54	72	72	169	162	161	148	141
Greater Manchester	160	173	269	251	763	773	782	842	829
Hampshire	0	0	26	30	296	324	325	347	335
Hertfordshire	14	46	98	139	223	246	256	262	257
Humberside	0	0	20	20	194	318	321	317	316
Kent	0	59	105	97	203	377	390	387	379
Lancashire	77	110	161	184	374	400	437	428	412
Leicestershire	28	41	103	136	216	212	228	233	226
Lincolnshire	29	38	75	78	147	165	153	149	137
London. City of	0	0	14	11	36	46	48	52	48
Merseyside	40	72	170	196	332	407	442	468	450
Metropolitan Police	513	1,463	2,147	2,315	3.694	4.247	4.594	4,645	4,387
Norfolk	12	33	68	65	176	274	277	275	277
Northamptonshire	12	10	37	40	129	159	168	164	168
Northumbria	0	51	126	129	248	254	259	438	429
North Yorkshire	0	52	75	71	147	180	173	198	187
Nottinghamshire	10	56	108	112	217	259	243	268	279
South Yorkshire	14	59	124	121	302	334	328	328	314
Staffordshire	0	7	63	70	203	209	236	237	230
Suffolk	0	15	34	30	123	140	160	173	170
Surrey	21	56	115	126	203	211	206	224	234
Sussex	22	83	228	257	352	372	399	377	367

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] by police force as at 31 March 2003 to 2010 and at 30 September 2010[3]

	As at 31 March:								
Police force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[4]*	*2006[4]*	*2007[4]*	*2008[4]*	*2009[4]*	*2010[4]*	*30 September 2010[4,5]*
Thames Valley	0	7	98	130	213	521	517	500	502
Warwickshire	11	25	56	64	127	133	143	138	137
West Mercia	8	57	81	85	217	272	272	279	281
West Midlands	0	39	219	252	644	748	812	811	784
West Yorkshire	70	265	394	462	690	757	761	763	728
Wiltshire	15	23	41	57	121	147	135	126	141
Dyfed-Powys	0	5	25	26	77	73	82	83	84
Gwent	30	45	77	76	105	139	139	143	144
North Wales	0	0	59	58	145	159	159	157	156
South Wales	0	59	107	111	314	327	325	335	310
Total England and Wales	1,176	3,418	6,214	6,769	13,497	15,805	16,507	16,918	16,376

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[4] Strength figures as at 31 March 2005 onwards include those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Therefore these figures are not comparable with those provided for other years in the table.

[5] These figures should be treated as provisional and subject to possible revision in future police service strength publications. Finalised figures will appear in the annual bulletin, together with further detail and explanation.

Police: Demonstrations

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with *(a)* the Metropolitan Police and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress (TUC) concerning preparations for the TUC demonstration on 26 March 2011; and if she will make a statement. [35702]

Nick Herbert: Ministers routinely meet the Metropolitan police to discuss a range of policing issues, including the policing of large-scale events in London. Home Office Ministers have not met with the TUC about preparations for demonstrations.

Police: Freedom of Information

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what date the Association of Chief Police Officers will be made subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [36282]

Nick Herbert: The Government plan to bring the Association of Chief Police Officers within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act by October 2011.

Police: Manpower

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the relationship between *(a)* levels of public spending and *(b)* police numbers and the incidence of crime. [34757]

Nick Herbert: The Government believe that police forces can make savings while protecting the frontline. We do not accept that reducing costs will cause an increase in crime. What matters is how resources are used and how officers are deployed.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been employed in each of the last five years in Harrow; and if she will make a statement. [36648]

Nick Herbert: Constituency-level data are not collected centrally. Available data relate to police officer strength for Harrow Basic Command Unit from 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2010.

The latest annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin was published in July 2010 and relates to 2009-10. It can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

Bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police officer strength, Harrow Basic Command Unit, 31 March 2005 to 31 March 2010[1]

As at 31 March:	*Police officers (full-time equivalents)*
2005	347
2006	354
2007	362
2008	377
2009	404

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures include those officers on career breaks and maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Pensions

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police pensions will continue to recognise the arduous and hazardous conditions of police work after implementation of the proposed changes. [37269]

Nick Herbert: The police pension schemes are included in the scope of the Independent Public Service Pensions Commission, led by Lord Hutton. The commission will make recommendations on how public service pensions can be made sustainable and affordable in the longterm and fair to both the public service workforce and the taxpayer. The Government will consider the commission's findings before proposing any changes to the police pension schemes. Any changes will be subject to the normal consultation processes in line with statutory requirements.

Public Interest Immunity Certificates

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many public interest immunity certificates Ministers in her Department have signed since May 2010; and what issues they covered. [36288]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 26 January 2011]:* Our records show that the Secretary of State considered six certificates in the relevant period. Certificates related to criminal proceedings, civil proceedings, and the inquests into the London bombings of 7 July 2005. Certificates covered material the disclosure of which would cause real damage or harm to the public interest, including national security. Applications made on national security grounds included those necessary to protect the identity of witnesses from the security and intelligence agencies through screening and anonymity, including applications under the relevant criminal legislation.

Radicalism: Publications

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the effects on levels of public protection of the publication and dissemination of radical literature on bomb-making; and if she will make a statement. [33981]

Nick Herbert: The Home Department has not received representations from third parties on this subject. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary regards it as being one of great importance and therefore ensures that all information received on this subject, from whatever source, is factored into decision and policy-making on counter terrorism.

Regional Asset Recovery Team

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the regional asset recovery team in each of the last three years; how much the team has raised in each of the last three years; what plans she has for the future of the team; and if she will make a statement. [36339]

James Brokenshire: For the previous three years there have been five multi-agency regional asset recovery teams. Their cost and amounts recovered are as follows:

£

	Annual cost	*Value of orders enforced*
2007-08	7,245,167	10,736,152
2008-09	6,328,248	10,641,456
2009-10	7,058,889	10,916,391
Total	20,632,304	32,293,999

From 1 April 2010 four additional teams were created; all regions of England and Wales are now covered by RARTs.

Scientific Expertise on the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of including scientific expertise on the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs. [36403]

James Brokenshire: This Government are committed to evidence-based policy-making. High quality scientific advice in the complex field of drugs is of the utmost importance. Scientific expertise is therefore integral to the work of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). The Department does not differentiate costs in relation to members of the ACMD between those who do, or do not, have scientific expertise. Neither the chair nor members of the ACMD are in any way remunerated for their work (travel and subsistence costs are reimbursed in accordance with Home Office guidelines). Specific costs are therefore not available. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs is sponsored by the Home Office and its total budget is given in annual reports available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/acmd/reports-research/

Special Constables

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the role of special constables in future arrangements for police training; and if she will make a statement. [37205]

Nick Herbert: There are currently a number of national initiatives concerning training and the Special Constabulary. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has recently launched Initial Learning for Special Constables (IL4SC). This is a national learning curriculum for trainee Special Constables.

In addition to the continuing support for the National Senior Leadership Programme for Special Constables of Senior Rank, the NPIA is planning to develop a programme for volunteer first line managers, which will help improve the retention of new and existing Special Constables.

In line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of volunteers, it will continue to support the development of the Special Constabulary in England and Wales.

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables posts she expects to be created in each police authority area during the comprehensive spending review period. [37207]

Nick Herbert: Individual police forces are responsible for determining their own recruitment requirements in order to meet local policing needs. In line with the Government's commitment to increase the number of volunteers, we will continue to support the development of the Special Constabulary in England and Wales.

Terrorism

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to disseminate detailed accounts of the activities of convicted terrorists to the public as part of the Prevent strategy. [32152]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 21 December 2010]:* The Government's review of "Prevent" is examining effective ways of countering terrorist ideology. The dissemination of any material concerning counter-terrorism investigations must however take account of the legal and operational impact of making such information public.

Theft

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of incidents of customers leaving without paying for goods or services in each year from 2005 to 2010. [36345]

James Brokenshire: It is not possible to estimate the number of such incidents.

The Home Office is responsible for collecting recorded crime statistics from the police in England and Wales. There are various offence classifications, which include incidents of 'customers leaving without paying for goods or services,' that can be recorded. Crimes will be recorded by the police in the appropriate classification depending on the individual circumstances of the offence. Figures for offences of shoplifting are published in Table 2.04 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Crime in England and Wales 2009/10':

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1210chap2.xls

Other examples of this type of incident, such as making off without payment for fuel, or leaving a restaurant without paying for the meal, would be recorded as fraud offences, as appropriate, and cannot be separately identified from the other frauds recorded by the police.

UK Border Agency: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on services provided by the UK Border Agency in Northern Ireland of the proposed reduction in the Agency's staff numbers. [36991]

Damian Green: The priority of the agency remains to secure the border and to control migration while we play our part in reducing the public deficit. We are committed to programmes such as e-Borders and the Immigration Case Working system that will help to reduce the threat of terrorism, crime and immigration abuse and replace costly and outmoded paper work, respectively. These programmes will help improve our productivity and efficiency and will mean that we can target our resources on those people likely to cause most harm to the UK. As a result the UK Border Agency will be able to deliver its objectives while reducing the budget by up to 20% in real terms over the next four years.

Vetting

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's reviews of the *(a)* vetting and barring scheme and *(b)* criminal records regime will take account of (i) the findings and recommendations of the Bichard Inquiry and (ii) statutory provisions safeguarding children and vulnerable people. [35599]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have commissioned a review of the Vetting and Barring Scheme and the criminal records regime, which we expect to report in the next few weeks. We shall consider carefully and respond to the outcomes and recommendations of the review.

Like Lord Bichard, the Government have made the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults the key priority for the reviews, but ensuring that this is achieved in a way which is proportionate and which removes unnecessary barriers to volunteering or working with these groups.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the threat to UK security from Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb. [35015]

Nick Herbert: I receive regular assessments on the terrorist threat to the UK and our interests overseas from the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre.

The main threat posed by Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb to UK nationals is kidnap in north and west Africa. A British national was kidnapped and murdered by Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb in May 2009.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 February 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Poverty

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of levels of poverty in Burma. [36789]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Congleton (Fiona Bruce), on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 611-12W.

Burma: Trade Unions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to trade unions from Burma in the latest period for which figures are available. [36790]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided no funding to trade unions from Burma.

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Latin American Programme will be put out to tender in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [36961]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme in Latin America has contracted over the past decade. The current programme of financial support to UK non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the Latin America Partnership Programme Arrangement will end in March 2011. This programme was developed as part of DFID's graduation strategy from the region. DFID will not be extending this support after completion of the current programme.

From April 2011, DFID will continue to support work in Latin America through contributions to multilateral organisations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, European Commission and UN. DFID will also support a research programme focusing on lesson-learning to ensure that other parts of the world can benefit from the development experience in Latin America.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what regulations his Department has introduced since 6 May 2010; [37366]

(2) what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37372]

Mr Paterson: My Department has made six statutory instruments since 6 May 2010. These are as follows:

1. The Electoral Law (Polling Station Scheme) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1532);

2. The Control of Donations and Regulation of Loans etc. (Extension of the Prescribed Period) (Northern Ireland) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2061);

3. The Northern Ireland Assembly Members Act 2010 (Commencement) Order 2010 (SI 2010/1726 (C.90));

4. The Local Elections (Northern Ireland) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2977);

5. The Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) (Amendment) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2892);

6. The Northern Ireland Assembly (Minimum Period) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2944).

A seventh is awaiting approval—the Control of Donations and Regulation of Loans etc. (Extension of the Prescribed Period) (Northern Ireland) Order 2011.

My Department has responsibilities chiefly on constitutional, electoral and national security fields; they do not generally concern business regulation.

In terms of repeals, the Electoral Law (Polling Station Scheme) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2010 revoked and replaced the Electoral Law (Polling Station Schemes) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1972 and the Polling Station Schemes (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Job Creation

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will establish a cross-Government group working in partnership with the private sector to develop a jobs and growth strategy for the creative industries. [37447]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: Potential opportunities and barriers to growth in this sector are being considered as part of the cross-Government digital and creative industries growth review. As part of this, we are working in partnership with stakeholders and industry to address these challenges.

Media Ownerships

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has discussed the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation with *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* officials or special advisers working for the Prime Minister since (i) the date he assumed ministerial responsibility for the policy area and (ii) the date he received the Ofcom report on the proposed acquisition. [37715]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As set out in the Enterprise Act 2002 I have to make the decision about the News Corporation BSkyB bid in a quasi-judicial role. Therefore neither I nor my Department's officials or special advisers have consulted the Prime Minister or any officials or political advisers working for the Prime Minister on this decision.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether any officials or special advisers in his Department have discussed the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation with officials or political advisers working for the Prime Minister since the date on which he received the Ofcom report on the proposed acquisition. [37730]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: As set out in the Enterprise Act 2002 I have to make the decision about the News Corporation BSkyB bid in a quasi-judicial role. Therefore neither I nor my Department's officials or special advisers have consulted any officials or political advisers working for the Prime Minister on this decision.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the effects on levels of digital inclusion of the revised timetable for the provision of universal broadband. [37286]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The Government's approach to broadband is to drive the rollout of superfast broadband to as much of the country as possible and to deliver at least a decent level of broadband access to virtually everybody as part of that commitment. That approach is underpinned by the work that Broadband Delivery UK BDUK conducted over summer 2010 examining the choice of cost effective solutions available to provide a minimum level of coverage to all premises without access to at least 2 MBps. Among the conclusions of that exercise was that a universal service commitment should not be seen as separate from the superfast broadband objective, but rather an integral part of pushing next generation networks deep into rural Britain. The £530 million allocated to support broadband rollout up to 2015 will help the UK achieve its aim of having the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Martha Lane Fox was re-appointed in June 2010, as the UK Digital Champion to champion the work to get everyone online and challenge the Government to go further on developing better quality, efficient online public services. The Government are committed to getting as many people as possible online by the end of the Olympic year, 2012.

Peter Aldous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date he expects the criteria for application to the next round of Broadband UK funding pilots to be published. [37594]

Mr Vaizey: No specific date has been set. Broadband Delivery UK is working with local authorities throughout the UK to give them guidance on how to apply for the next round where bids will be invited from April 2011.

Communications and Creative Industries

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the oral answer of 20 January 2011 to the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent Central (Tristram Hunt), *Official Report*, column 1001, what measure the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries used when he described the UK economy under the previous administration as bankrupted. [36944]

Mr Vaizey: My use of the term 'bankrupted' was measured by the fact that under the previous Administration public sector net borrowing in 2009-10 was £156 billion or 11.1% of GDP, the highest level in UK post-war history. The Government were borrowing one pound for every four they spent.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37404]

John Penrose *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The following statutory instruments sponsored by the Department have been revoked since 6 May 2010:

The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2010 revoked The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2004;

The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) (No.2) etc. Regulations 2010 revoked The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) etc. Regulations 2010;

The Welsh Language (Gambling and Licensing Form) Regulations 2010 revoked The Welsh Language (Gambling and Licensing Form) Order 2007.

The first and third instruments are replaced by similar regimes provided for by the revoking instrument. The second instrument revokes provisions permitting charging for parking in Richmond and Bushey parks.

Football

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what data his Department holds on injuries sustained at football stadia by standing spectators. [36331]

Hugh Robertson: The Department does not hold the information requested centrally.

The Football Licensing Authority (FLA) are responsible for ensuring that all spectators are able to attend sports grounds in safety, comfort and security through means of guidance, assistance and monitoring.

I have asked the chief executive of the FLA to write directly to the hon. Member for Hove. Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Football: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent reports he has received of incidence of anti-Semitism in football; what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to monitor this issue; what recent (i) meetings and (ii) representations he has received from (A) the Football Association and (B) representatives of the Jewish community on the issue; what response he gave; and if he will make a statement. [36709]

Hugh Robertson: While I have received no recent representations or held any recent meetings on the issue of tackling anti-Semitism in football, I remain fully committed to a sporting landscape free from all forms of discrimination. There is no place in sport for prejudice of any kind and Sport England and the Football Authorities are working together to tackle the problem.

If it occurs, anti-Semitic or racialist chanting of any kind is an offence under section 3 of the Football (Offences) Act 1991, though this is a matter for the police and courts to determine on each case's merits.

News Corporation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of his meetings with News Corporation on 7 and 20 January 2011. [37026]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: I wish to continue to be as open as possible while respecting confidential and commercial interests. It would not be appropriate to do so whilst the process is ongoing but I will publish all relevant documentation, including minutes of meetings, as soon as I am able.

Ofcom: Public Appointments

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what reports he has received on the future employment of the Director of Technology Resources at Ofcom; and if he will make a statement. [37727]

Mr Vaizey: I have not received any such reports.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will discuss with Ofcom a review of its consultation document on Implementing Geolocation following the forthcoming departure from his post of Ofcom's Director of Technology Resources; and if he will make a statement. [37728]

Mr Vaizey: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is directly accountable to Parliament. I am not aware of any reason why it would be appropriate to review the consultation on Implementing Geolocation.

Olympic Delivery Authority: North East England

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many bids for contracts the Olympic Delivery Authority has received from companies based in the North East; which such bids were successful; and what the monetary value is of each such contract. [36683]

Hugh Robertson: As of December 2010, 21 companies in the North East are directly supplying the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), with a total spend to date of £9,644,108.

Data from the ODA's eTendering system, covering procurements with an estimated value in excess of £25,000, show that a total of 46 bids (or Pre Qualification Questionnaire applications) have been submitted by companies based in the North East.

The ODA was established in April 2006 and set up its eTendering system in February 2007. Tenders under £25,000 are not tracked through the ODA's central procurement system. To establish where firms are based for tenders before February 2007 or under £25,000 would incur a disproportionate cost.

The ODA Information on businesses that have directly supplied the ODA is available in the business section of the London 2012 website under the heading ODA suppliers, where you will be able to find suppliers listed by venue and sector:

http://www.london2012.com/business

These figures only account for the contracts awarded by the ODA to its own top tier of contractors (tier one contractors). The figures do not include the values of contracts further down the supply chain, in tiers two, three and so on, which are awarded by the tier one contractors and not by the ODA. For example, steelworks for the Olympic Stadium were provided by Geoffrey Maskell Engineering in Durham, and Newcastle based International Paint have supplied paint to the Aquatics Centre. The ODA estimates that the total value of supply chain contracts to the regions runs into hundreds of millions of pounds, but these are not public procurements and so the full value of contracts won across the UK is not captured by the figures provided. The ODA estimates that overall up to 50,000 contracts will be generated throughout its supply chains.

Olympic Games 2012: Cycling

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has to encourage more people to cycle to work as part of the Olympic legacy. [36838]

Hugh Robertson: The Department has overall responsibility for the sport of cycling, and responsibility for growing the sport rests with Sport England. Sport England provides funding to the sport's National Governing Body, British Cycling, to increase participation through its Whole Sport Plan and to contribute to the creation of a lasting sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

While the Department has no specific plans to encourage more people to cycle to work as part of the Olympic legacy, we will continue to work with the Department for Transport to create as many opportunities as possible to increase the number of people cycling, whether that be as a means of active travel or as a means of participating in sport.

Olympic Games 2012: Flags

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his policy is on the flying of flags from Government buildings during the London 2012 Olympics. [36865]

John Penrose *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: The guidance on flying flags on UK Government buildings is available at:

www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/7125.aspx

At this stage, we have no plans to change this guidance for the Olympics and Paralympics.

Piers: Public Finance

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the merits of making public funds available to rebuild or maintain seaside piers that have fallen into disrepair. [36914]

John Penrose: In the current fiscal climate, we have not considered making additional public funds available, but some listed piers may be eligible to apply to English Heritage for funding, who also contribute advice as part of their planning responsibilities, and from the Heritage Lottery Fund, where a strong case can be made for public benefit. In addition, some pier restoration projects in private ownership have been successful without public funding, for example Weston Grand Pier. The new 'community right to buy' provisions in the Localism Bill will give local groups a legal right to bid for and take over the running of threatened community assets which includes piers.

Sport England: Olympic Games 2012

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to work with Sport England to prepare to increase participation in sport after the London 2012 Olympics. [36837]

Hugh Robertson: I asked Sport England to work with DCMS to develop the Places People Play mass participation Olympic legacy programme. Places People Play was launched on 15 November 2010 and will help to upgrade sports facilities, protect playing fields and create the sporting opportunities and challenges to encourage people of all abilities up and down the country to get into sport—whether that be as a participant, leader or volunteer.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Females: Corporate Boards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she plans to take to increase the number of women on corporate boards. [37259]

Lynne Featherstone: Lord Davies has been appointed by the Government to look at how obstacles can be removed to allow more women to make it to corporate boards. We look forward to his recommendations for a business led strategy and we will respond in due course.

Measures that we are taking such as flexible working and parental leave provision will also help address some of the barriers to progression that women face in the workplace.

Government Equalities Office

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what regulations the Government Equalities Office has introduced since 6 May 2010. [37363]

Lynne Featherstone: The majority of the Equality Act 2010 was brought into force by a Commencement Order on 1 October 2010. This Act consolidated and replaced nine major pieces of legislation and many other pieces of ancillary legislation. Some 20 Statutory Instruments relating to the Equality Act 2010 have now been made and published and are listed on the Government Equalities Office website, at the following link, which also makes clear the purpose of each:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010/details_of_statutory_instrumen.aspx

Decisions about outstanding measures and future secondary legislation will be made and announced in due course.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what regulations the Government Equalities Office has removed since 6 May 2010. [37388]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has not removed any regulations since 6 May 2010. However, the Government announced on 17 November 2010 that they had decided not to implement the socio-economic duty contained in the Equality Act 2010 as this was considered to be an unnecessary burden.

TRANSPORT

A11: Repairs and Maintenance

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the dualling of the A11 between Thetford and the Fiveways improvement scheme; and if he will make a statement. [37226]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport's statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-179, on Investment in Highway and Local Transport Schemes identified the A11 Fiveways to Thetford scheme as one on which the Highways Agency would start works before 2015, subject to the completion of statutory processes.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure his Department has incurred on Government Car Service cars since May 2010. [37411]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has spent £132,522.50 (excluding VAT) on Government Car Service cars since May 2010. The total cost includes expenditure on the allocated car service provided to Ministers, expenditure on Ministerial Car Pool services and occasional use of car services for Government officials in place of using taxis.

The Ministerial Code published in May 2010 stated that the number of Ministers entitled to an allocated car and driver would be kept to a minimum with other Ministers using a car from the Ministerial Car Pool as needed.

Due to contractual obligations the Department was not able to put the new arrangements into place until September 2010, when the new Ministerial Car Pool service was introduced.

Driving Standards Agency: Cardiff

Mr Hain: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Secretary of State for Wales was not involved in the decision to close the Cardiff office of the Driving Standards Agency. [35042]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: The closure of the DSA Cardiff office is an operational matter for the DSA. The Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales on a range of issues affecting Wales, including the restructuring of the DSA.

We will continue to have such discussions regarding the proposed closure of the Cardiff DSA office throughout the consultation period but this remains an operational matter for the DSA.

As an inquiry has been launched into how documents relating to the proposals were leaked it would be inappropriate to give any further detail on discussions or correspondence.

Electric Vehicles

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the extent of regional variation in the uptake of electric cars; and what plans he has to encourage uptake in areas which have reported lower sales. [36920]

Norman Baker: The nationwide Plug-In Car Grant was launched successfully on 1 January 2011 and will help both private consumers and businesses across the UK purchase an electric, plug-in hybrid, or hydrogen-fuelled car. We will monitor this developing market closely, including any regional variations.

The Department for Transport has committed to publishing the number of new registrations of ultra low emission vehicles on an annual basis.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the funding required for the upgrade of the Great Western Main Line between London Paddington and *(a)* Bristol, *(b)* Newport, *(c)* Cardiff, *(d)* Swansea and *(e)* lines west of Swansea his Department is required to meet. [35017]

Mrs Villiers: The current programme of work to renew and upgrade the Great Western Main Line, along with the necessary financing, is undertaken by Network Rail. The expenditure is placed on the Regulatory Asset Base of that undertaking.

High Speed Trains: Property

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the monetary value of *(a)* reductions in property prices and *(b)* reductions in the area of usable farmland arising from the construction of High Speed 2. [35978]

Mr Philip Hammond: It is not possible to accurately estimate the value of reductions in property prices arising from the construction of a new high speed rail line at this stage. This is because of the difficulty of making accurate predictions now about the property market response to a line that will not be built and operational until 2026.

Estimates of the amount of farmland which will need to be acquired in order to construct a new line will be included in the appraisal of sustainability, which will be published as part of the high speed rail consultation in February.

Highways Agency: Manpower

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely employee headcount at the Highways Agency at the end of *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the three subsequent financial years. [35142]

Mike Penning: The Highways Agency's current estimate is that its total headcount will have reduced from 3,872 full-time equivalent staff as at the end of April 2010 to 3,569 by the end of this financial year.

We are currently in the process of developing our plans for achieving further savings during the spending review 2010 period and therefore do not yet have estimates for the number of staff in post at the end of the next three financial years as requested.

HM Coastguard: Training

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 83W, on HM Coastguard: manpower, how many people HM Coastguard has trained in each year since 2001; and how many of those trained remained in employment with HM Coastguard for more than one year after the conclusion of initial training. [36863]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The number of people who have received initial Coastguard training since 2001, and the number who have remained in employment with HM Coastguard for more than one year after they have successfully completed their training for the period 2003 to 2009 is set out in the following table.

	Total trained	*Total who passed their training and remained employed*
2003	39	38
2004	30	27
2005	35	31
2006	36	28
2007	42	35
2008	35	33
2009	18	17
Total	235	209

Further to my answer of 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 83W, in respect of 2001 and 2002, the data are incomplete and not in a readily accessible format.

A full year has not passed since the majority of Coastguard courses ran in 2010, but the number of people who have received initial Coastguard training is 39, and the number remaining is 36 to date.

Intercity Express Programme Review

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies his Department has contracted to carry out consultancy work on the Intercity Express Programme; what the total monetary value is of each such contract; and how much each such company has been paid to date. [33379]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* From the start of financial year 2005-06 until approximately 30 April 2010, the amount paid to companies carrying out consultancy work, rail industry advice, legal, financial, business case, technical, project management and procurement advice associated with both the Intercity Express and Great Western Electrification Programmes under the previous administration is as follows. These figures include the time spent by companies in response to Foster Review queries and expenses such as travel and meeting room hire, and exclude VAT and payments to individuals.

	£
Barkers HR Advertising	16,632
Capita Resourcing	431,218
Clifford Chance	1,606
Congress Centre	11,970
Ernst and Young	161,042
First Great Western	149,873
First Class Partnerships	5,913
Freshfields	5,644,844
Jim Standen Associates	10,620
Mott MacDonald	11,827,506
MWB Business Exchange	1,903
Nichols	2,938,071
GNER, NXEC and East Coast Trains	1,233,895
PricewaterhouseCoopers	2,791,582
Reed Employment	51,054
Steer Davies Gleave	1,235,628
Willis Ltd	13,615
Total	26,526,970

For the period from 3 May 2010 until 11 January 2011 the figures are as follows. Most of these costs constitute time spent by companies in response to Foster Review queries, and the continuation of the Great Western Electrification Programme.

	£
Capita Resourcing	7,842
First Great Western	22,261
Freshfields	27,242
Mott MacDonald	79,468
Nichols	178,368
East Coast Trains	46,574
Steer Davies Gleave	82,343
Total	444,098

The Department for Transport currently has live contracts with the following companies. The monetary amounts set out represent the maximum total authorised spend, not the amount remaining for each. As such, much of the work under these contract has already been carried out and invoiced for, and is included within the amounts in the previous tables.

	£
Freshfields	3,600,000
Mott MacDonald	15,000
Nichols	15,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers	25,000
Steer Davies Gleave	45,125
Total	3,700,125

Network Rail

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to increase the democratic accountability of Network Rail; and if he will make a statement. [34968]

Mrs Villiers: The Government are committed to ensuring that Network Rail is properly accountable to its customers. As the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) announced in his statement of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 15-18WS, on the future of the rail industry, the Department for Transport is currently working with the rail industry to devise a package of possible reforms, which could include reform of current industry governance arrangements. A further announcement will be made in due course.

Network Rail: Land

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the value of land held by Network Rail which is surplus to railway requirements; whether he is taking steps to reduce such landholdings; and if he will make a statement. [33973]

Mrs Villiers: The circumstances under which Network Rail can sell or otherwise dispose of its operational land are set out in Condition 7 of its network licence, monitored and enforced by the independent Office of Rail Regulation. The purpose of the licence condition is to ensure that those parts of the Network Rail property portfolio which may be required for the future development of the railway are retained for that purpose.

Where consent is given by the Office of Rail Regulation, the decisions on whether, when and how the land should be disposed of are commercial ones for Network Rail. Network Rail is encouraged by the Office of Rail Regulation to maximise its income from all sources over each five-year funding period. This particularly includes the redevelopment of its land and property. Income generated by the company from sale on development of land and property assets is reinvested in the network.

Railways: Freight

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish government on improving rail freight links between Scotland and England. [36355]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport has had no recent discussions with Transport Scotland specifically focussed on this issue.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to improve rail freight links between Scotland and England. [36356]

Mrs Villiers: Funding of and enhancement to the rail network in Scotland is a devolved matter for the Scottish Administration. In the last three years record levels of rail freight investment have been announced to support continued growth of the network in England and Wales, including £200 million towards the development of a Strategic Freight Network and over £150 million towards the provision of infrastructure enhancement for freight through the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund. This includes funding for enhancement to a section of the east coast main line which links England with Scotland.

Railways: High Speed Trains

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what cost benefit analysis he has undertaken of the proposed high speed rail link between London and Leeds. [36659]

Mr Philip Hammond: High level assessments of the economic case for several national high speed rail network options, each with links to Leeds, were contained in HS2 Ltd's report published in March 2010. In October 2010 I published HS2 Ltd's comparative economic case of two initial high speed rail network options, again, each with links to Leeds. The work on the Government's preferred initial network will be updated as part of the forthcoming consultation.

The work already published suggests a link to Leeds is likely to be a strong part of the economic and strategic cases for high speed rail. HS2 Ltd is undertaking more detailed work on the economic case for the Leeds leg as part of the route engineering study which will report to me by December.

Rescue Services

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an estimate of the expected savings to the public purse over the next 10 years of his proposals to reform HM Coastguard. [35060]

Mike Penning: Based on implementation of the modernisation proposals outlined in the consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century' it is envisaged that savings of around £60 million could be made over 10 years following the commencement of transition.

Sea Rescue

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 664W, on sea rescue, what the name was of each member of the team; what relevant experience each such member had prior to their appointment; and what criteria were used to select them. [37018]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* As stated in my answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 664W, the proposals set out in the consultation document represent the collective, corporate position of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and its chief executive, Sir Alan Massey.

It would be wholly inappropriate to name individually the full range of MCA and Department for Transport civil servants who have contributed to the development of these proposals over several years, or who were involved in the final creation of the consultation document.

Trust Ports: Finance

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether trust port borrowing is scored against his Department's balance sheet; and whether such borrowing is covered by his Department's capital departmental expenditure limit. [35345]

Mike Penning: Borrowing by the major trust ports in England and Wales scores on the Department for Transport's capital departmental expenditure limit because the major trust ports are classed as public corporations by the Office for National Statistics for the purposes of national accounts. However, public corporations fall outside the departmental accounting boundary and their borrowings are not included on the Department's balance sheet, as reported in the annual Department for Transport resource accounts.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many test purchases of alcohol in drinking establishments by under-age children were carried out in *(a)* Lincoln, *(b)* Lincolnshire and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years; and how many such establishments were found to have sold alcohol to minors through such operations. [37734]

James Brokenshire: These figures are not collected centrally.

Antisocial Behaviour: Public Houses

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to local residents to address inappropriate behaviour from people outside public houses. [36953]

James Brokenshire: There are a number of powers available to local authorities and the police to tackle various types of inappropriate behaviour from people outside public houses. These include introducing a designated public places order, where individuals can be stopped from consuming alcohol in a public place, powers to direct individuals to leave an area if they are contributing to alcohol related antisocial behaviour and noise abatement notices which can be issued by the local authority.

Additionally, any resident living in the vicinity of the premises, can apply to the local authority to call for a review of the premises licence. This will enable the licensing committee to attach further conditions if it considers it necessary to do so, to the licence, to address the problems being caused by people outside of the premises. These could include for example conditions on the smoking area of the public house, or not allowing anyone to re-enter the premises once they have gone outside.

Additionally, we are proposing to amend the Licensing Act to ensure that the licensing authority has more powers to refuse to grant licences to, or to revoke licences from premises which cause problems for their local community. We are also proposing to remove the 'vicinity test' so that anyone can make relevant representations about a licensed premises, and have their concerns addressed by the licensing authority.

Bank Cards: Fraud

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on combating bank card fraud; and if she will make a statement. [37488]

James Brokenshire: The Government are determined to tackle all types of fraud which is one of the reasons why we are creating a new Economic Crime Agency which will help to provide a new focus on complex economic crime.

Figures published by the payments industry in October 2010 showed that card fraud losses in the first six months of 2010 fell by 20% compared with the same period in 2009. This was the lowest half year total for 10 years.

The Home Office continues to work closely with the payments industry including actively supporting the Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit, a specialist police unit funded by the payments industry which investigates cheque and plastic card fraud where there is an element of organised criminal activity. The Home Office provides additional funding to the City of London Police to carry out a lead force role in the investigation of serious and complex fraud throughout the country and also providing training and support to other forces which may also be investigating fraud. The City of London Police has also developed the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau through which law enforcement, private and public sector organisations share data about confirmed fraud.

Home Office Ministers and officials have regular meetings with law enforcement and industry partners to discuss fraud-related matters.

Crime: Maps

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to encourage members of the public to make greater use of its CrimeMapper facility. [36931]

Nick Herbert: The Government are committed to making the work of the police more transparent and to replacing bureaucratic accountability with democratic accountability.

Key to this is providing the public with easy access to information on crime and policing in their local area. This is why the Government have just launched street level crime data and maps which, for the first time, will enable communities across England and Wales to see what crime and antisocial behaviour has happened on their streets.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36614]

Damian Green: The Home Office has a range of initiatives under way in order to meet the 10% target. Measures have included:

Reductions in the size of the estate
Improving heating, cooling and lighting controls and fittings;
Replacing/removing inefficient equipment;
Implementing good housekeeping measures;
Greening ICT; and
Raising staff awareness.

The Department produces and makes public the progress made and measures taken to deliver the target. This can be found at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37238]

Damian Green: There has been no central spend on Department branded drinks coasters by the Home Office or its agencies. However, it is possible that individual teams may have commissioned such items on a small scale or for specific campaigns. A full search through our financial records for this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Human Rights

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 131W, on Deportation: human rights, for what reasons removal cases considered under *(a)* Article 3 and *(b)* Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights are not separately recorded on the Case Information Database used by the UK Border Agency; and if she will make a statement. [37231]

Damian Green *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* Removal cancellations categories are recorded on the Central Information Database, such as 'Medical Issues' or 'Further Representations'. However the level of detail required to indicate whether representations relating to either article 3 or article 8 of the European convention caused the cancellation is not recorded.

That level of detail has never previously been identified as information necessary for the management of removals performance.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of the Sojourner Fund pilot from March 2011; and if she will make a statement. [37570]

Damian Green: The Home Office pilot project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds commenced in November 2009. In the strategic narrative 'Call to End Violence against Women and Girls' on 25 November 2010, the Home Secretary confirmed her intention to ensure that the Home Office continue to fund support for women in the UK on spouse visas who are victims of domestic violence until an effective and sustainable permanent solution is established.

The Home Office has confirmed that funding will be available for the pilot to continue into financial year 2011-12 and that work on a long-term solution continues.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which voluntary organisations working to prevent drug misuse her Department funded in 2010-11; and how much funding was provided in each case. [32097]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 20 December 2010]:* The Home Office provides funding to voluntary, community group, charity and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations through the Positive Futures programme, a community based prevention programme targeting vulnerable 10 to 19-year-olds at risk of drug and alcohol misuse or crime in 91 areas. While the programme has a wider agenda, work delivered locally may include elements of drug prevention.

The Department has funded 53 VCSE projects in 2010-11 to deliver Positive Futures in their local communities. The organisations and their grant allocations for 2010-11 are set out in the following table. The remaining 38 projects are local authority run but some do involve the VCSE in delivery of some aspects of their work such as the provision of activities or accredited training or learning programmes.

In addition, Drug Interventions Programme funding to local partnerships to manage drug misusing offenders is used by some partnerships to fund VCSE organisations. This may include some elements of prevention but the Home Office does not monitor which organisations are contracted locally to deliver services or the services that they provide.

Voluntary, community and social enterprise organisation	*Positive Futures project*	*Positive Futures grant allocation for 2010-11 (£)*
Arsenal In The Community	Islington	78,762
Aston Football Club	Birmingham Aston	36,500
Brentford FC Community Sports Trust	Ealing	75,000
Catch22	Birmingham Kings Norton	58,000
Catch22	Mansfield and Ashfield	37,500
Catch22	Nottingham Radford and Hyson Green	35,000
Catch22	Southampton	31,500
Catch22	Southwark	100,942
Catch22	Suffolk	93,450
Catch22	Wolverhampton	58,000
Charlton Athletic Community Trust	Bexley	49,750
Charlton Athletic Community Trust	Dartford and Gravesham	42,203
Chelsea Football in the Community	Wandsworth Chelsea	43,964
Colchester United Community Sports Trust	Tendring	49,532
Community Action	North Devon	58,000
Community Voluntary Group	Liverpool North	77,175
Corner House Youth Project	Stockton	50,096
Cranstoun Drug Services	Wandsworth Roehampton	43,964
Doncaster Community Arts	Doncaster DARTS	45,000
Fairbridge Greater Manchester	Salford	83,744
Fairbridge North Manchester	Rochdale	79,966
Football Unites, Racism Divides (FURD)	Sheffield	63,500
Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust	Great Yarmouth	31,500
Groundwork Lancashire West and Wigan Limited	Preston	31,500
Groundwork West Midlands	Birmingham Handsworth	31,500
Gymnation	Gloucester	42,500
Hoop Dreams	Teesside	29,750
Joint Activities and Motor Education Service	Bradford Keighley	80,370
Lambeth Community Programme	Lambeth	72,000
Lancashire Sport Partnership	East Lancashire	49,065
Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme	Barking and Dagenham	31,200
Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme	Hackney	83,264
Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme	Newham	58,500
Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme	Tower Hamlets	65,000
Leyton Orient Community Sports Programme	Waltham Forest	80,000
Lifeline Calderdale	Calderdale	82,053
Local Leagues Limited	Birmingham Sparkbrook	42,500
London Active Communities	Brent	45,099
London Active Communities	Sutton	35,000
Millwall Community Scheme Limited	Lewisham	44,775
Nacro	Corby	55,500
Nacro	Leicester	36,550
Nacro	South Bedfordshire	32,400
Nacro	Walsall	35,458
Notting Hill Housing Trust	Hammersmith and Fulham	49,104
Pertemps Coachright	Sandwell	48,000
Portsmouth Football Club Sports and Education Foundation	Portsmouth	58,000
Riverside Youth Trust	Bristol Central	68,681
Sporting Futures	Derby	35,000
Tottenham Hotspur Foundation	Haringey Sports	40,000
Toxteth Tigers	Liverpool Toxteth	40,100
Treyla	Penzance	58,000
Youth Moves	Bristol Knowle and Filwood	83,455

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* undertaken or *(b)* evaluated research on (i) harm caused by drugs and (ii) harm caused by the criminalisation of drugs. [34867]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* The Home Office has undertaken a number of research and analytical projects in recent years into the harms caused by drugs.

The Department developed the drug harm index (DHI) in 2005 to measure the harms generated by illegal drug use in order to measure progress against a previous public service agreement target. This combined national indicators of various drug-related harms including those related to drug-related crime, community perceptions of drug problems, drug nuisance, and the various health consequences that arise from drug abuse (e.g. HIV, overdoses, deaths etc.) into a single figure time-series index. Results from the DHI were published for the period 2002 (the baseline year) to 2006.

The Home Office has produced an estimate of the social and economic costs of Class A drug use for the reference year 2003-04 taking into account a range of quantifiable harms. This was published in 2006.

More recently the Home Office undertook a national evaluation of drug treatment in England which found that drug treatment is effective in reducing the harms associated with problem drug use. This was published in 2009. Additionally, in 2010, the Home Office published research on the perceptions of the social harms associated with use of khat.

(ii) The Home Office has not undertaken or evaluated any research into any harm caused by the criminalisation of drugs.

References:

Macdonald, Z. et al (2005) 'Measuring the harm from illegal drugs using the Drug Harm Index' Home Office Online Report 24/05.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr2405.pdf

Singleton, N. et al (2006) 'Measuring different aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments' Home Office Online Report 16/06.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf

Donmall, M et al (2009) 'Summary of key findings from the Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS)' Home Office Research Report 23.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr23.pdf

Crime and Drugs Analysis and Research Programme (2009) 'Measuring the harm from illegal drugs: a summary of the Drug Harm Index 2006.' Home Office Research Report 13.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr13.pdf

Sykes, W et al (2010) 'Perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use' Home Office Research Report 44.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr44c.pdf

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many substances are controlled under the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; and how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there have been in respect of each substance in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [37276]

James Brokenshire: The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (1971 Act) controls in excess of 250 drugs by reference to their standard chemical nomenclature. In addition, simple derivatives from these drugs such as the esters, salts and stereoisomers are covered under the 1971 Act and in particular cases, generic definitions have been used to cover compounds relating to a controlled drug.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally and cannot be broken down to the specific offence required.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office is based on aggregated data and covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, police force area and main offence group, for example violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary and drugs offences. From these centrally reported categories it is not possible to separately identify specific drug offences.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drug offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 by drug type[1] in England and Wales in 2009[2, 3, 4] can be found in the following table.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drug offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, by drug type[1], England and Wales, 2009[2, 3, 4]

Drug type	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Cocaine	8,469	7,999
Heroin	8,056	7,318
LSD	37	32
MDMA	957	918
Crack cocaine	2,227	1,803
Methadone	248	229
Methylamphetamine Crystal Meth	45	37
Amphetamines	2,866	2,715
Cannabis	21,827	20,095
Anabolic steroids	13	15
GBH Hydroxy-n-butric acid	6	5
Ketamine Special 'K' or Club 'Horse Drug'	383	356

[1] Only those offences are given in the table where the drug type is specified in the statute.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed the number proceeded against as the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in an earlier year and the defendants were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year; or the defendants were found guilty of a different offence to that for which they were originally proceeded against.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Forensic Science

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with private sector suppliers of forensic science on their financial viability. [37113]

James Brokenshire: The financial viability of forensic suppliers was assessed as part of the procurement for the National Forensic Framework Agreement and continues to be monitored as part of the contract management process of the National Forensic Framework. Furthermore, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) have been and continue to engage with forensics suppliers as part of the transition programme, and appropriate due diligence will take place for any transfers of contracts and capacity from the Forensic Science Service.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects on the objectivity of advice provided to police forces on forensic science of the provision of such services in-house. [37114]

James Brokenshire: The evidential value and integrity of forensic exhibits is tested under the intense scrutiny of the courts from the point of collection, through analysis and to interpretation and reporting. Each step in the process must be able to withstand these critical reviews. The Forensic Science Regulator is working closely with the police, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), the private and public sector (Scottish and Irish laboratories) suppliers of forensic science services to produce a single quality standards framework that applies to all those organisations involved in varying stages of the forensic processes. The NPIA provide up to date advice and guidance through their own forensic experts and the ACPO-led Forensics 21 Programme, which has a performance and standards group chaired by DCC John Fletcher, Bedfordshire police.

Police forces have their own forensic practitioners who support each other through 'expert panels' facilitated by the NPIA, and on many occasions take advice from the private sector suppliers. The police have ready access to different sources of reliable advice, as well as their own in-house knowledge and expertise.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will establish standards for forensic science investigations following the wind-down of the Forensic Science Service. [37115]

James Brokenshire: The Forensic Science Regulator was appointed to set and monitor quality standards in forensic science across the board; he is working closely with the police, the National Policing Improvement Agency and the private sector laboratories to develop a single quality standards framework. The regulator is a member of the Forensic Science Service Transition Board and will monitor the movement of forensic science services to ensure that quality standards are maintained. All the private sector forensic science laboratories across the UK work to demanding quality standards and are accredited against BS/EN ISO 17025 (General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service. This is the standard adopted by the Forensic Science Regulator for forensic science laboratory functions and is a requirement of the police contracts with the laboratories. ISO 17025 is also the standard being adopted by the police in-house fingerprint enhancement laboratories with an NPIA-led project to co-ordinate the adoption of the standard by all police forces, in line with the European Union framework decision which mandates it, by 2015.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of her assessment of the future development of the private sector forensic science market. [37116]

James Brokenshire: My written ministerial statement on Forensic Science of 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 94-96WS, set out how we see the market developing. We want to see the UK forensic science market operating as a genuine market with private sector providers competing to provide innovative services at the lowest cost. It also set out our priority of continued provision of effective forensics.

The police assessment is that the external forensics market will continue to fall over the next few years, as forces seek to maximise efficiencies in this area. This advice, based on the advice from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and others, suggests that this market will reduce from £170 million in 2009 towards around £110 million by 2015.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of scientific innovation by the Forensic Science Service; and if she will make a statement. [37117]

James Brokenshire: Research and development in forensic science is essential to ensure the continued availability of a high quality, efficient, forensic science capability for the Criminal Justice System. Unfortunately the Forensic Science Service's financial difficulties had already limited the company's capacity for research and innovation. We are working closely with the police, the FSS, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and other forensics providers to look at how we can help the industry to build on existing expertise and continue the innovation for which the UK has become globally renowned.

As I announced on 27 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 21WS, in a written ministerial statement, the Home Office's chief scientific adviser, Professor Bernard Silverman, is to carry out a review of research and development in forensic science in the UK. The review will consult widely with forensic service providers and related organisations in the public and private sectors, academia and research funders, as well as issuing an open call for submissions of evidence. The review will also work closely with the National Policing Improvement Agency, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and police service customers.

Immigrants: Detainees

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of persons currently detained under Immigration Act powers are *(a)* appealing against their detention and *(b)* making applications to remain in the UK. [36215]

Damian Green: The number of people currently detained under Immigration Act powers is 2,893. This is a snap shot taken on 25 January.

Persons detained may apply for bail either from the UK Border Agency or a court. The number of persons who have outstanding applications for bail is 407, which is 14% of those detained.

The number of people who are currently detained and are currently making an application to remain in the UK is 1,016 which represent 35% of those detained.

All figures quoted are internal management information only and are subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration Controls

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what timescale she has set for reviewing the salary threshold for Tier 2 immigration applications; [37136]

(2) what criteria her Department used in setting the salary threshold for Tier 2 migrants. [37137]

Damian Green *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: Under the changes to Tier 2 announced by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) on 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-171, the minimum salary threshold for an intra-company transferee seeking admission to the United Kingdom for more than 12 months will rise to £40,000.

This is considered to be a salary level commensurate with the type of worker we are obliged to admit as an intra-company transferee under the terms of the relevant international agreements by which the UK is bound.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on industry demand to recruit specialists, not available within the EU, prior to setting the new rules in respect of Tier 1 and Tier 2 migrants. [37139]

Damian Green *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has regular discussions with ministerial colleagues, including the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, on a range of issues, and will continue to do so to develop and implement the Government's policies, including the measures set out in the Home Secretary's statement of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 169-171, on implementing limits on immigration.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West (Mike Crockart) of 2 November and 20 December 2010 in regard to her constituent Mr Ronald Fraser. [36437]

Mr Lidington: I have been asked to reply.

The letter of 2 November 2010 to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, my right hon. Friend the Member for Maidenhead (Mrs May) from my hon. Friend was transferred to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 26 January 2011. We will answer this letter as soon as possible.

Metropolitan Police

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the potential effects of implementation of the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill on the night-time work of the Metropolitan Police Service. [37036]

James Brokenshire: The alcohol provisions in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill are designed to ensure that local communities have more of a say in the decisions taken in their local area. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill introduces a late night levy where 70% of the net revenue raised will be passed to the police by licensing authorities who choose to implement it. The police could use this revenue to pay for late night policing linked to alcohol related crime and disorder. In addition, the amendments to early morning restriction orders will assist the police and local authorities to take action that reflects the needs of their local communities in policing the night time economy.

Vetting

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much money was received by the Criminal Records Bureau in income from fees from each type of registered body and umbrella group in 2009-10; [37444]

(2) how many Criminal Records Bureau disclosures were issued for each type of registered body and umbrella group in 2009-10. [37445]

Lynne Featherstone: In 2009-10 the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) received a total income of £123 million from fees. Information relating to fees is held on a separate system from that which provides the figures for the number of certificates issued therefore the Bureau is unable to provide a breakdown in the format requested.

During this period the Bureau issued 4,294,977 certificates to Registered Bodies. Of these, 2,495,017 were issued to organisations that are known to operate an Umbrella Body service. I should also note that 933,271 applications were for voluntary positions which the Bureau issues free of charge.

I should explain that there is no legal definition of an Umbrella Body. These are Registered Bodies that are willing to submit applications on behalf of other organisations that are not eligible to submit CRB checks themselves.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the contribution of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund to the UK biodiversity target. [37357]

Richard Benyon: Although no separate assessment has been made of the contribution of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) itself, the Mineral Restoration Potential Project, which was funded by the Fund, found that minerals sites could make a very significant contribution to UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets for habitat creation. Some of the priority habitats which could most benefit are shown in the following table:

Priority habitat	*Potential contribution made by England mineral sites to BAP target (ha)*	*Potential contribution made by England mineral sites to BAP target (%)*
Lowland dry acid grassland	276	>100
Native woodland	53,000	95
Lowland wood-pasture and parkland	120	>100
Lowland calcareous grassland	8,426	44
Lowland heathland	7,600	>100
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	151	>100
Wet reedbeds	1,715	>100
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	1,250	>100

Priority habitat	*Potential contribution made by England mineral sites to BAP target (ha)*	*Potential contribution made by England mineral sites to BAP target (%)*
Saline lagoons	100	>100
Lowland meadows	256	>100
Upland hay meadows	72	>100

The ALSF has also supported the Natural After Minerals Project to develop a strategic partnership between Natural England, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and minerals companies to help take advantage of this opportunity. The ALSF evaluation identified six projects in the period between 2008 and 2011 that have contributed to BAP targets as shown in the following table:

ALSF project	*ALSF funding 2008-11 (£)*	*Wider project (if relevant)*	*Beneficiary habitats/species*	*Activities undertaken*
Creating Priority Ponds on Aggregate Sites	80,615	Million Ponds Project	Ponds, supporting up to 82 BAP species	Promote and support Priority Pond creation on aggregate sites through a dedicated Pond Officer for the mineral industry, enabling aggregate extraction sites to make a significantly greater contribution to national and local BAP targets for freshwater species and habitats.
Crayfish Arks for the Peak District and Derbyshire	23,231	n/a	White Clawed Crayfish LBAP and UK BAP targets	Outputs will include detailed reports on methodologies, practicalities and outcomes of Ark site selection, preparation and implementation, to be disseminated on a national basis.
Whin Grassland, Northumberland	128,300	n/a	Whin grassland	Establish Whin grassland as distinct classification within Northumberland LBAP; develop best practice guide for Whin grassland; practical site works to conserve and restore habitat; improve understanding of Whin grassland.
Ouse Fen, Cambridgeshire	56,680	Hanson—RSPB Wetland project	Reedbed (by 2030; 40% of 2010 target for reedbed creation in UK), floodplain grazing marsh; skylark, brown hare, linnet, yellowhammer	Contribution to habitat restoration; contribution to establishment of appropriate habitat management.
Lackford Lakes Farmland BAP project, Suffolk	56,362	Lackford Lakes nature reserve	Tree sparrow, other farmland BAP birds, common lizard, grass snake	Habitat creation to address critical factors thought to be limiting tree sparrow success with the aim of attracting them to Lackford Lakes nature reserve.
Langford Lowfields, Newark	[1]40,600	n/a	Reedbed (nearly 3% of UK target, 10% of regional target, 33% of county target); bitterns (2% of UK target)	Restore Tarmac site to nature conservation area in partnership with the RSPB.

[1] This was 2007-08.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in each English region in the latest year for which figures are available. [37395]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: Since its inception in 2002, delivery partners for the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) have been required to report data on projects to DEFRA, including in which region those projects have taken place. Some projects do not take place in a single region because they are either nationally relevant (e.g. research and development projects), trans-regional or marine projects. The following table accounts for the £96 million invested in projects taking place in a single region.

ALSF projects by English region

Region	*£ million*	*Percentage*
East midlands	15	16
East of England	11	12
North-east	5	5
North-west	8	9
South-east	20	21
South-west	18	19
West midlands	9	9
Yorkshire and Humberside	9	10
Total	96	100

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in each financial year since 2001-02; and what her forecast is of expenditure in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [37399]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: The following table shows the total allocation and spend since the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund's (ALSF) inception in 2002.

	Total expenditure (£million)
2002-03	17.9
2003-04	19.2
2004-05	19.5
2005-06	25.4
2006-07	19.6
2007-08	19.7
2008-09	24.0

	Total expenditure (£million)
2009-10	23.80
2010-11	16.1
2011-12	—

The decision made from the last comprehensive spending review was to discontinue the ALSF at the end of the current financial year. The forecast for the end of 2010-11 is £16.1 million; after the end of this year the programme will have ended so no forecast is available for 2011-12. However, DEFRA will be making up to £225,000 available for a small project next year—the purpose of which is to ensure findings from £60 million already invested in ALSF Research and Development are collated and made accessible for all through a professional website tool which will be run and maintained by the Mineral Industry Research Organisation.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund; and if she will make a statement. [37400]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: An independent evaluation of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) programme of work for the years 2008-11 was recently carried out by the in-house policy resource unit. Overall, the evaluation was positive in that the programme delivered against its objectives and did provide value for money. The evaluation can be viewed on the DEFRA ALSF web pages at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/aggregates/

However, during the spending review, and against other departmental priorities, DEFRA concluded that the ASLF did not represent a core activity for the Department, and, therefore, funding could not continue beyond the current financial year. This decision should not detract from the excellent work that has been undertaken by delivery partners, and for which the Department is very grateful.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations her Department has conducted on the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in the last 12 months. [37401]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: No specific consultations were undertaken on the decision to discontinue the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) which was taken in the light of broader departmental spending priorities as part of the spending review. However, an independent evaluation of the ALSF programme of work for the years 2008-11 was recently carried out by the In House Policy Resource unit, and the results are available on the ALSF pages on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/aggregates/

All the relevant delivery partners, industry and professional bodies were consulted through the process of drawing this evaluation together.

Air Pollution: Legal Costs

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of litigation and fines in respect of the UK's air quality exceedances of *(a)* particulate matter and *(b)* nitrogen dioxide. [37712]

Richard Benyon: The UK seeks to comply with EU law and the Government made a commitment in the coalition agreement to work towards EU air quality standards. We are making great efforts to ensure that we do so.

The Commission is able to request the European Court to impose a daily fine, a lump sum fine, or both. As a guide to the levels which have been set by the Commission, a daily fine is calculated by multiplying a uniform flat rate (currently €640) by coefficients for seriousness and duration, and then multiplying this figure by a special factor for each member state, which for the UK has been set at 18.31. The minimum lump sum fine (for the UK) is set at €9.666 million.

Current European Commission guidance (Commission Communication SEC (2005) 1658 as updated by Commission Communication SEC(2010) 923/3) sets out three criteria which are taken into account when calculating the level of fines. These are: the seriousness of the breach (which affects the lump sum only and can be a multiple of between 1 and 20), the duration of the breach (a multiple of between 1 and 3) and a deterrent factor designed to ensure the breach is rectified and the offence is not repeated. Each case is treated on its own merits, so it is extremely difficult to estimate the level of any fine.

Any litigation costs would depend on how far the case goes, and the scope of the issues involved. It is very difficult to estimate these in advance.

Animals: Advertising

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to regulate advertisements for the sale of pets *(a)* on the internet and *(b)* in newspapers; and if she will make a statement. [36710]

Mr Paice: There are no proposals to regulate advertising the sale of pets on the internet or in newspapers specifically. To regulate and police internet adverts would, even if it were feasible, require a considerable investment of resources. I am not satisfied that the net welfare benefits could justify Government giving further consideration to intervention in this area. With regard to newspaper adverts, welfare organisations have worked constructively with the newspaper industry to encourage self-policing and to raise customer awareness of what they should do when responding to small adverts. I am very grateful to those newspapers that have now decided to take positive steps to promote animal welfare and protect the interests of their readers. I do not consider that further action by Government is either feasible or necessary.

Animals: Licensing

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for licensing animal dealers; and if she will make a statement. [36701]

Mr Paice: The Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended in 1983) controls the sale of all animals as pets from licensed premises. The 1951 Act requires any person selling pet animals to be licensed by the local authority. Before granting a licence, the authority must satisfy itself that the animals are kept in accommodation that is suitable and clean, that they are supplied with the appropriate food and drink, and are protected from disease and fire.

The maximum penalty under the 1951 Act is a fine of £500 and/or three months' imprisonment. If a person is convicted under the Act or for any offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, a court may cancel any pet shop licence or disqualify a person from keeping a pet shop for any period as the court thinks fit. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is the principal piece of legislation protecting all domestic and captive animals, in England and Wales. Under the 2006 Act, it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to—or fail to provide for the welfare needs of—any domestic or captive animal.

I am satisfied that the legislation currently in place relating to the selling of pet animals provides local authorities with the necessary powers to ensure that the welfare of animals is maintained.

Bees: Public Expenditure

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on the number of bee inspectors; and if she will make a statement. [36529]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has not yet finalised the funding allocations to individual programmes. It is not therefore possible at this time to confirm the implications of the comprehensive spending review on the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit's bee inspectorate.

Biodiversity

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the current status is of the UK target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010. [37356]

Richard Benyon: The target to halt biodiversity loss by 2010 was an EU-wide one. The Commission reported in October last year that the EU had missed it. The UK provided details to the Commission on progress towards the target in early 2010. This showed that the decline in biodiversity had slowed and in some cases had been halted or reversed but that there remained a lot more to do. The EU has agreed a successor target to halt biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystem services by 2020. A strategy to deliver this new target is currently in preparation.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37242]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not produced drinks coasters in either this or the previous financial year. There are no records available which indicate that coasters were produced prior to this.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what single tender contracts her Department has awarded since her appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36183]

Richard Benyon: From information held centrally by the core Department and its executive agencies, the following information is available on single tender contracts.

Core DEFRA

(a) Single Tender contracts awarded since 12 May 2010—24, with a total value of £1,732,863.46, average contract value £66,648.59.

(b) Of these, nine contracts have expired/completed.

(c) Of the remaining 15 contracts, two complete before the end of this fiscal year.

(d) There is one Single Tender contract above the OJEU threshold in the period of £770,000 which is for follow up work to complete an assignment previously awarded on a competitive tendering exercise under the EU procurement aggregation rules.

Rural Payments Agency

(a) The Rural Payments Agency has awarded three single tenders since 12 May 2010 with a total value of £3,113,841, as follows:

£2,115,000—Map Digitising

£994,000—e-channel Extension

£4,841—LEAN Training (method for business improvement that focuses on the reduction of variation in all work processes)

(b) Two of the contracts, Map Digitizing and e-channel extension, were above the Official Journal European Union threshold.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

(a) Single Tender contract Awarded since 12 May 2010—eight, with a total value of £82,805, average contract value £10,351.

(b) Of these, two contracts have expired/completed.

(c) Of the remaining six contracts, one completes before the end of this fiscal year.

(d) There are no Single Tender contract above the OJEU threshold in the period.

Food and Environment Research Agency

(a) Fera is a science-based organisation. We do not collate specific information about Single Tender contracts, concentrating on those areas where we do operate competitive tenders. We seek competitive pricing for all purchases in excess of £5,000 for goods and £20,000 for services where the product/service is provided by more than one supplier.

(b) There have been no Single Tender Actions above the OJEU threshold for Fera during this period.

Animal Health Agency

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

There have been no Single Tender contracts for these two organisations.

Dogs

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to require that all puppies offered for sale *(a)* are examined by a veterinary surgeon and *(b)* are subject to a health certificate before the sale of the animal; and if she will make a statement. [36713]

Mr Paice: The independent Dog Advisory Council is currently looking at health problems in dogs. This covers health checks and advice given to purchasers by vendors. I will consider this matter in the light of the recommendations made by the Council.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what legislation the *(a)* breeding and *(b)* sale of puppies is regulated; and if she will make a statement. [36700]

Mr Paice: The Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, which amended and extended the provisions of the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991, provides protection for dogs used in breeding establishments. Under this legislation, any person who keeps a breeding establishment for dogs at any premises and carries on a business of breeding dogs for sale at those premises must obtain a licence from the local authority. Those people who are not in the business of breeding dogs for sale and produce less than five litters in any period of 12 months—so called "hobby breeders"—do not need to obtain a licence. Local authorities have powers to grant or withhold a licence as well as to inspect a pet shop for standards of welfare.

The sale of dogs may also be regulated under the Pet Animals Act 1951 which regulates anyone who is in the business of selling pet animals. Similar powers for local authorities are provided here as under the dog breeding legislation.

In addition to the specific law on the breeding and selling of dogs, there is also the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which places a duty on those who own or are responsible for animals to ensure their animals' welfare. This includes owners and keepers of dog breeding establishments. Failure to provide for the welfare of an animal could lead to a fine of up £5,000 and/or six months' imprisonment.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to reduce the levels of commercial breeding of puppies; what recent representations she has received on this issue; what response she gave; and if she will make a statement. [36712]

Mr Paice: Possible measures to improve the breeding and health of dogs will be considered by the independent Dog Advisory Council. I will consider any need for Government action to combat indiscriminate breeding in the light of the recommendations of the Council.

From time to time, DEFRA receives correspondence relating to the welfare of dogs at breeding establishments and whether we are proposing to make any changes to the existing controls. I consider that the existing controls provide adequate protection for the welfare of dogs and enable local authorities to take appropriate action, if necessary.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on the enforcement of legislation relating to the *(a)* breeding and *(b)* sale of puppies; what amendments her Department has made to it in each year since 2005; if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance; and if she will make a statement. [36715]

Mr Paice: Guidance for local authorities on the legislation relating to the breeding and sale of dogs was provided by central Government in 1999 when the legislation was last amended. The guidance has not been subsequently amended. I will arrange for a copy of the guidance to be placed in the Library of the House.

Dogs: Tagging

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals for compulsory microchipping of dogs. [36346]

Mr Paice: The Government support voluntary identification of pets by microchipping because it increases the chances of lost or stolen dogs being reunited with their owners. A proposal for all dogs to be compulsorily microchipped was included in DEFRA's consultation on dangerous dog legislation. DEFRA received 1,875 responses on this issue, of which 84% were in favour and 16% opposed. We are currently considering the possibility of introducing compulsory microchipping as well as a range of other issues raised in the consultation. No final decisions have been made.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my noble Friend Lord Henley, is due to announce the Government's approach to dangerous dogs in the near future.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to require the microchipping of all puppies for sale before they leave their mothers; what recent representations she has received on this issue; what response she gave; and if she will make a statement. [36714]

Mr Paice: The Government supports voluntary identification of pets by microchipping because it increases the chances of lost or stolen dogs being re-united with their owners. A public consultation on the law on dangerous dogs, which concluded on 1 June 2010, included a proposal that all dogs be microchipped. As a result, numerous letters were received on this subject by DEFRA. We have analysed the 4,250 or so replies to the consultation and a summary of the responses was published on 25 November 2010. A decision about the way forward, including regarding the microchipping of dogs, will be made shortly.

Fisheries: Sharks

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on prohibition of sale of shark fin products. [37564]

Richard Benyon: The UK is committed to the sustainable management and conservation of sharks, and to bringing to an end the wasteful practice known as shark finning, where shark fins are removed at sea, and the rest of the carcass discarded.

The UK has not adopted a policy of banning the sale of shark fin products. We consider that the most effective means of protecting these species is through working at an EU and international level to better manage fisheries, while where appropriate seeking to ban the international trade in shark products through the Convention on international trade in endangered species (CITIES).

The UK has already taken the strong and proactive decision to ban UK vessels from removing fins from sharks at sea. All UK vessels now have to land sharks with fins naturally attached—a measure that will prevent shark finning. We want this to be the case for all vessels, and so are pushing strongly for EU legislation to be changed, and for international agreement on this issue.

We are also leading the way on shark management in both in Europe, and international fisheries management bodies, by calling for appropriate limits to be set on the numbers of sharks that can be caught, and for total bans on catching endangered species.

Fishing Catches

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to begin collecting data on the number of fish discarded by fishermen as a result of compliance with fishing quotas. [36952]

Richard Benyon: UK fisheries laboratories have been sending scientific observers to sea to record the quantity of fish discarded by fishing vessels since 1975. The data collected during these sampling trips are used to estimate the total quantities of fish discarded. It is then possible to analyse the data further to estimate how much of these discards occur for specific reasons, for example, the amount of fish discarded to comply with quota limits, or for market reasons or because they were undersized.

Forestry Commission: Land

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Forestry Commission on the potential sale of woodlands. [37383]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial Government Department that reports in England to the DEFRA Secretary of State. The Forestry Commission has been closely involved in discussions on the new approach to ownership and management of woodlands and forests.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 293W, on forests, for what reason the 2,700 campaign emails sent via Forest.org were not added to the figure of 800 representations received by her Department on the sale of the public forest estate. [37521]

Mr Paice: As the hon. Member's previous question asked for the categories that we use to record representations, the answer separated the correspondence received on forestry into different types. This was the reason that the campaign emails from Forest.org were listed separately.

Fracking

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the environmental consequences of fracking. [36969]

Richard Benyon: The impact of hydraulic fracturing on the water environment in England and Wales would be assessed on a site specific basis by the Environment Agency. This would happen via its role as a statutory consultee in the planning process, or as part of its consideration of the need for, and response to, an application for an environmental permit (under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010). The Environment Agency has its own in-house technical expertise which is used to support its role in protecting and managing water quality and resources. This expertise is available to the Government.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to announce her proposals for more widespread and consistent reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. [36544]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Oxford West and Abingdon (Nicola Blackwood) on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 143W.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Business

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to introduce regulations requiring companies to disclose their greenhouse gas emissions. [36880]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Oxford West and Abingdon (Nicola Blackwood) on 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 143W.

Litter

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the disamenity of litter; and whether she plans to commission further research into the matter. [36242]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has commissioned work on the public's economic valuation of litter, as part of a research project covering a range of local environment quality factors. The work is expected to conclude this spring.

Natural Gas

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions has she had with the shale gas drilling industry on disclosure of chemicals used in drilling activities. [36475]

Richard Benyon: There is currently one company drilling for shale gas in England and Wales, Cuadrilla Resources, which is operating near Blackpool, Lancashire. It has not yet discharged any chemicals into the ground as it has not started hydraulic fracturing. The Environment Agency has held discussions with the company about its operations. As part of these discussions the company has voluntarily disclosed the names of the chemicals it is intending to use as part of hydraulic fracturing.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* cats of each breed, *(b)* dogs of each breed and *(c)* other pets of each species abandoned by their owners in each local authority in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [36711]

Mr Paice: There are no figures held centrally on the numbers of cats and dogs abandoned each year. However, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities are required to keep such records in respect of dogs.

Pyrethroids

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will take steps to ban the use of pyrethroids by local authorities. [36665]

Mr Paice: There are no plans to ban the use of pyrethroids by local authorities. Pyrethroid insecticides are strictly regulated under UK and EU legislation to ensure that they can be used without causing harm to people or to the wider environment. Products have to be assessed and authorised before they are marketed, and it is a legal requirement that all users, including those in local authorities, follow the label instructions which allow the products to be used safely.

Departmental Redundancies

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department has spent on redundancy since May 2010. [36548]

Richard Benyon: The Department has spent £248,483 on redundancy since May 2010.

Rivers: Pollution

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations the Environment Agency has made to landowners on mineral pollution in the river system in the North of England. [37180]

Richard Benyon: Water quality in our river systems has been steadily improving for many years. However, there is still work to be done: to tackle pollution from a variety of sources, for example, contaminated land, agriculture and industry, and to meet our obligations under the water framework directive. It is often essential to work with landowners, in order to raise their awareness and enable better management of the land.

The Environment Agency is currently involved in a number of projects affecting rivers in the North East of England. These include: working with the Coal Authority at a number of locations to address the impact of minewater pollution; working with farmers and landowners on initiatives to reduce pollution from sediment entering rivers; and working with developers and landowners to ensure they understand, and are able to prevent, contamination of rivers resulting from regeneration projects.

Trees: Damson

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has made *(a)* an estimate of the number of damson trees and *(b)* an assessment of the areas of highest density of such trees. [37090]

Mr Paice: We have made no estimate of the number of damson trees in England, and nor is there any current numerical data on the areas of greatest density.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Trade Unions: Iraq

17. **Mr Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Iraqi counterpart on the role of trades unions in Iraq. [37157]

Alistair Burt: Our ambassador in Baghdad discussed concerns over the treatment of unions in the Ministry of Electricity with the Electricity Minister in August 2010. The right to form and join trade unions in Iraq is embodied in the Iraqi constitution, a principle to which this Government attaches great importance. Embassy officials maintain a regular dialogue with Iraqi union representatives.

Commonwealth: UK Role

18. **Dan Byles:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for the future role of the UK in the Commonwealth. [37158]

Mr Hague: I remain committed to strengthening the UK's relationship with the Commonwealth and ensuring that we are at the centre of plans to reinvigorate this unique organisation for the benefit of all its current and future members. This ready-made network can further UK foreign policy and economic interests.

Detention: Israel

19. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on detention. [37159]

Alistair Burt: Our embassy in Tel Aviv raises concerns over the military court system, including administrative detention, on a regular basis at official level. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), met with Palestinian human rights defenders during his visit to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories in November 2010. Officials regularly attend court hearings for human rights defenders.

Sudan

20. **Paul Goggins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [37160]

21. **Duncan Hames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [37161]

22. **Robert Halfon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the outcome of the referendum in southern Sudan. [37162]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr Hague), issued a written ministerial statement on 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 1-2WS. The southern Sudan referendum is a momentous step towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We welcome the positive reactions of the north and of observers as we await the formal results. We will support north and south as they work on the remaining CPA issues. We continue to support efforts to establish a lasting peace for Darfur.

Gilad Shalit

24. **Eric Joyce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on securing the release of Gilad Shalit. [37164]

Alistair Burt: It is despicable that, four years on, Gilad Shalit should still be held by Hamas in denial of the most basic of human rights. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with the Shalit family during his recent visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and reiterated his call for the immediate release of their son.

Hazara Population: Pakistan

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the condition of the Hazara population in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [37163]

Alistair Burt: The Hazara community in Pakistan numbers approximately 500,000. In the past they have reported discrimination because of their ethnicity. Officials from our high commission have met with representatives of the community. I raised the importance of upholding the rights of all citizens with the Minister for Minorities on 10 January.

Australia and New Zealand

Jane Ellison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcomes were of his recent visit to Australia and New Zealand; and if he will make a statement. [37152]

Mr Hague: My visit, the first by a Foreign Secretary for 17 years, reaffirmed Britain's close relationships with Australia and New Zealand. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I agreed with our counterparts new areas of closer co-ordination across foreign policy, security and defence issues. Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd took me to his constituency to see the devastation caused by the flooding, and I offered to contribute UK expertise in flood recovery and forecasting, which Australia has accepted.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Iranian counterpart on the use of death by stoning as a punishment in Iran. [37380]

Alistair Burt: I raised this topic in discussions with the Iranian embassy in London a number of times in 2010, most recently in November when I spoke to the Iranian chargé d'affaires. Our embassy in Tehran also discussed this with the Iranian authorities in December last year. We believe that stoning is a barbaric punishment which has no place in modern society. We continue to urge the Iranian authorities, and all other countries that use stoning as a punishment, to abolish this violent practice forever.

Iraq: Camp Ashraf

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Iraq on measures to protect civilians living in Camp Ashraf. [35473]

Alistair Burt: The UK has discussed the situation at Camp Ashraf with the Iraqi Prime Minister, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, and the previous Iraqi Human Rights Minister and Iraqi Minister of Internal Affairs. Officials at our embassy in Baghdad also continue to discuss the situation with the EU, US and UN, most recently on 14 January 2011.

The UK has and will continue to emphasise to the Iraqi authorities the need to treat the residents of Camp Ashraf in a way that meets international humanitarian standards.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 21 December 2010, with regard to Mr P Walsh. [37228]

Mr Lidington: The letter of 21 December 2010 from the right hon. Member has been transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions to answer.

Personnel

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of each socio-economic group work in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Diplomatic Service. [36393]

Alistair Burt: We do not hold this information.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) aims to recruit a talented and diverse workforce that reflects the society we serve and our recruitment policies are designed to encourage applications from the widest possible range of backgrounds. All external recruitment into the FCO is based on merit, and all campaigns must be fair and open.

The FCO also runs and takes part in diversity-related internship schemes. Their main aim is to help ensure that the most talented people from diverse backgrounds, which are currently under-represented in the FCO workforce, are aware of and attracted to a career in the FCO.

The Cabinet Office will publish data on the socio-economic background of entrants to the senior civil service and the civil service fast stream. This will include fast stream applicants who go on to join the FCO.

Personnel: Education

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's senior management staff were educated at *(a)* Oxford university, *(b)* Cambridge university and *(c)* public schools in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [36389]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold data centrally on the educational background of senior management staff. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The FCO's recruitment policies are designed to encourage applications from the widest possible range of backgrounds. All external recruitment into the FCO is based on merit, and all campaigns must be fair and open. In addition, the FCO's internal promotion and progression schemes are firmly meritocratic, based on objective and consistent criteria against which all candidates are assessed.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's *(a)* policy and *(b)* operational staff entrants were educated at (i) Oxford university, (ii) Cambridge university and (iii) public schools in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [36390]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) only holds data centrally on the universities (but not schools) attended by staff who have come in via the Cabinet Office's Fast Stream scheme. The proportions of these who attended Oxford and Cambridge are as follows.

	Percentage Oxford	*Percentage Cambridge*
2007	25	17
2008	24	10
2009	21	21
2010	31	6

The FCO does not hold data centrally on the educational background of other new entrants. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sexuality

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his counterparts in countries where persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people is enshrined in law. [36913]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are committed to combating violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people as an integral part of its international human rights work. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers and officials regularly raise human rights issues, including the situation of LGBT people, during meetings with international counterparts. Earlier this month I visited Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago, and raised LGBT equality during discussions with government officials and non-government organisations.

The UK will continue to play a leading global role in ending inequality and discrimination against LGBT people. In July 2010, the Government published "Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality" to guide the UK's future work in promoting LGBT rights. The FCO contributed to the international section of the strategy which includes a commitment to pushing for unequivocal support for LGBT rights internationally.

Uganda: Elections

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the likely effectiveness of the dispute resolution mechanisms proposed for the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Uganda. [37721]

Mr Bellingham: I have made the point to members of both the governing and Opposition parties, including President Museveni and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, that it is crucial for both sides to engage constructively in the election process if it is to be deemed credible.

Ugandan electoral law contains provisions for appeals on the results to be lodged with the Supreme Court within 10 days of election results being announced. The court then has a further 30 days to declare its findings. This process was followed effectively in 2001 and 2006.

Earlier in the process we lobbied for the adoption of a Code of Conduct Bill which would have enabled the Electoral Commission to convene electoral liaison and peace committees across the country to resolve disputes. However the Bill was not adopted. The UK, and other donors, have funded the Electoral Commission to introduce alternative mechanisms to resolve inter-party disputes (for example, the Inter-Party Dialogue (IPOD)) and a new system for handling complaints.

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on measures to ensure freedom of speech and freedom of the media in Uganda in advance of the forthcoming elections in that country. [37722]

Mr Bellingham: Uganda has a lively media, and their coverage inspires active public debate on current issues and criticism of government policies. But we are concerned about administrative and legal curbs on freedom of expression. We are aware of reports that some Opposition candidates have faced difficulty in accessing local media in some areas, although this is difficult to monitor in practice.

The UK has supported, via the Deepening Democracy Programme, projects to support a free media to promote accountability (including providing assistance to radio networks, media training and promotion of accurate messaging). We have also discussed the draft Press and Journalist Bill with the Ugandan Minister for Information and National Guidance. We have urged that any new regulation strikes an appropriate and legitimate balance between regulation and protection of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

EDUCATION

Academies

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many academies are currently operating on split sites. [32776]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 January 2011]*: Although this information is not collected by the Department and academies are not required to supply it, from information held by the Young People's Learning Agency we understand there are 38 academies that currently operate on split sites.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average annual salary of staff employed on fixed-term contracts in his Department was in the latest period for which figures are available. [34840]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 20 January 2011]*: The latest information for the Department is set out in the following table:

£

Grade band	*Sum of annual salary*	*Average of annual salary*
Executive assistant	462,464.00	17,787.08
Executive officer	43,832.00	21,916.00
Higher executive officer	1,326,249.41	27,630.20
Senior executive officer	438,837.30	36,569.78
Grade 7	270,257.50	54,051.50
Grade 6	112,399.00	56,199.50
Total	2,654,039.21	27,937.25

Education Maintenance Allowance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 80W, on the education maintenance allowance, how many *(a)* current students and *(b)* students who were surveyed as part of the National Foundation for Educational Research study into education maintenance allowance were from (i) white, (ii) mixed, (iii) Indian, (iv) Pakistani, (v) Bangladeshi, (vi) other Asian, (vii) Black African, (viii) Black Caribbean and (ix) other ethnic backgrounds. [34168]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: The research undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), working in partnership with Triangle and QA Research, looked at barriers to participation in post-compulsory education including financial barriers.

The research included a sample of 2,029 young people, who were chosen to be representative of young people aged 16 and 17 in terms of their gender and attainment, of incidence of learning difficulty or disability and destination in the September after leaving Year 11. This was supplemented by a combination of telephone and face-to-face interviews with young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, parents of young people with LDD, young people in a job without training aged 16 or 17, young people who were not in education, employment or training aged 16 or 17 and teenage parents aged 16-18.

The following table shows the ethnicity of respondents.

Table A2: Ethnicity of survey respondents ethnicity

	Percentage
Asian	4
Black	2
Mixed	2
Other	1
White	91
Prefer not to say	<1

N=2,029

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in receipt of education maintenance allowance in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England have gone on to higher education in each year since its introduction. [34252]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]*: Neither the Young People's Learning Agency nor the Department for Education currently collects information on how many students in receipt of education maintenance allowance have gone on to higher education.

Education: Assessments

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he made of the average cost *(a)* per sixth form college and maintained secondary school with a sixth form, *(b)* per student in a sixth form college or in the sixth form at a maintained secondary school and *(c)* to the maintained secondary sector of public examinations in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2009-10; [27593]

(2) what estimate he made of the average cost to maintained schools and sixth form colleges of a public examination entry in school year *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 in 2010 prices in academic year (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2009-10. [27599]

Mr Gibb: The best information the Department holds in relation to examination fees in the secondary sector comes through the section 251 of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 (ASCL) outturn data for local authorities. The response I gave my hon. Friend on 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 83W, provides this information for 2002-03 and 2008-09. Further to that answer, the outturn data for 2009-10 have now been published and are available on the Department's website at the following web address:

http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/financeandfunding/section251/b0071584/s251-workbooks-outturn-2009-10

The 2009-10 figures for public examination spend by maintained secondary schools is set out as follows:

	2009-10 (£)
Spent by maintained secondary schools	302,635,000
Per school	95,780
Per pupil	98

This information is available because data are collected on how schools spend their funding. However, owing to the way in which the information in relation to school examination costs is collected, it is not certain whether all school sixth form examination costs (school years 12/13) are included in these figures. For the same reason, it is also not possible to split out the school sixth form examination costs from those for pre-16 (school years 10/11).

Similar information for the further education (FE) sector was collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) up to the 2006-07 financial year, but has not been collected since and is no longer collected.

Data supplied by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) show that public examinations cost sixth form colleges (SFCs) a total of £25,810,000 in 2006-07, inclusive of any adult examination costs. This means an average cost of £266,082 per SFC and £177 per SFC student (all ages). It is not possible to provide comparable SFC examination cost data for the years preceding 2006-07 because the earlier records are substantially incomplete.

It is also not possible to split out the costs for the school years requested in parliamentary question 027599 from the figures provided above, which also include any adult examination costs. I am therefore unable to provide any detail as to how much SFCs have spent historically on examination fees for school years 10 to 13.

Notes:

1. The financial information used in the answer to this PQ is taken from the Department's former section 52 data collection. Section 251 of the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 now replaces section 52 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 in England.

2. Examination Fees includes the costs of test and examination entry fees, and any accreditation costs related to pupils (including GCSEs, A/AS levels, GNVQs); administrative costs, e.g. external marking.

3. Pupil numbers used in the calculations include all FTE pupils attending maintained secondary or middle-deemed secondary schools in England in the financial years given.

4. The headcount pupil numbers used are from the 2002, 2003, 2009 and 2010 January School Census (with a 1/3-2/3 weighting applied to give financial year figures).

5. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 17 January 2011.

Free Schools: Special Educational Needs

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether he has made an estimate of the number of free schools which are likely to be established to provide exclusively for children with special educational needs in the next five years; [32865]

(2) whether he plans to apply additional criteria to groups applying to open a free school providing exclusively for children with special educational needs; [32857]

(3) what relationship he plans to establish between local authorities and free schools providing exclusively for children with special educational needs. [32856]

Mr Gibb: We have not made an estimate of the number of free schools which are likely to be established to provide exclusively for children with special educational needs in the next five years. Opening any new school is complex and we are aware that there are additional complexities in establishing special free schools. We are considering these issues and intend to provide additional information to potential applicants. We are also considering whether additional criteria are required to assess applications to establish special free schools.

The Schools White Paper—'The Importance of Teaching'—has set out our plans for a new school system. Free schools, including those providing for children with special educational needs (special free schools), will enjoy the same freedoms as academies and special academies. We will be publishing our Green Paper on SEN and Disability in February and this will set out the future relationship local authorities will have with special academies and free schools.

Further Education

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to support education for 16 to 19-year-olds in further education colleges in areas where there is no sixth form provision. [33032]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 January 2011]:* Local authorities have a statutory duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all 16 to 19-year-olds in their area.

In July 2010, the Secretary of State for Education announced a series of steps to simplify the funding system for 16 to 19-year-olds, including giving local authorities a key strategic leadership role to champion the interests of young people in their area. They may shape provision in their area by identifying gaps, enabling new provision and developing the market.

The needs of young people are much more likely to be met where local authorities have strong partnerships with those who provide education and training. There is no prescription about how this should be done but, in developing their overview, local authorities will want to work with their key partners, including schools, colleges and other providers, to identify the education needs of young people in their area, the needs of employers and the extent to which those demands and needs are being met overall.

From 2011/12 core 16 to 19 allocation budgets for school sixth forms and colleges will be based on the equivalent of lagged pupil numbers thus ensuring that funding more explicitly follows the young person. We are also devolving responsibility to institutions to decide on their curriculum offer and mix of provision so that they can respond to the needs of individual students.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to support localism and decentralisation in respect of the role of parents in determining the sex and relationships curriculum in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [33195]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* All primary schools have the flexibility to determine their own approach to sex and relationships education (SRE)—including whether to provide SRE—so that they can take account of the views of parents, the needs of the local community and the ethos of the school. Governing bodies of both primary and secondary schools have a statutory responsibility to ensure that they have a sex education policy in place and this must be available to parents on request.

It is important, therefore, that schools consult parents about the content of their SRE programmes and give them the opportunity to comment on content and the manner in which that content will be presented. Schools may decide to amend their SRE programmes if a majority of parents disagree with the content. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE lessons.

In the Schools White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, published on 24 November, we announced our intention to conduct an independent review to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, including SRE, and retain the flexibility of teachers to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to increase parental involvement in planning the Personal Social and Health Education curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [33196]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* It is our intention to ensure that all schools can deliver PSHE education in a way that meets their pupils' needs, and is informed by the views of parents. The Schools White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, announced our intention to hold an internal review of PSHE to determine how we can support schools to improve the quality of all PSHE teaching, including giving teachers the flexibility to use their judgment about how best to deliver PSHE education in different contexts.

School Meals: Finance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the funding of school lunches following the end of the School Lunch Grant in 2011. [23567]

Sarah Teather: The funding for the School Lunch Grant is part of the schools' baseline funding announced in the spending review, because the Government are committed to healthy school meals. The funding will not be ring-fenced and it will be for schools and local authorities to decide how to spend the money in line with their own needs and priorities including the delivery of statutory nutritional standards.

Secondary Education: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's list of independent providers who receive funding from his Department for providing 16 to 19 education and training. [32795]

Mr Gibb: I have placed in the Library a copy of the independent providers for 2010-11 who receive departmental funding for 16 to 19 education and training through the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). The list does not include providers of 16 to 19 apprenticeships who, while funded by the Department for Education, are contracted and paid by the Skills Funding Agency which is part of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The definition we have used for an independent provider is:

> "a business in its own right or a charitable voluntary organisation".

Students: Finance

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to make provision to reimburse students for costs incurred through attendance at further education colleges following the ending of education maintenance allowance. [32426]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 10 January 2011]:* We are committed to making sure that young people from low income households can continue in education and training post-16. We are considering the replacement for the education maintenance allowance and want to ensure that the funds we have are targeted on those young people who most need support to enable them to participate in education.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Audit

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will standardise the rules of audit for large and small businesses after the transfer of the responsibilities of the Financial Services Authority to the Bank of England. [37124]

Mr Davey: The requirements for companies to be audited are contained in Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, which implements EU law. Companies that qualify as small companies under sections 477 to 480 of the Companies Act are exempt from the requirement to have a statutory audit. The Government are urging the European Commission to bring forward proposals to make audits for some, preferably all, medium-sized, unlisted companies voluntary.

Careers Advice

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to issue guidance to local authorities on the implementation of his proposed all-age careers service. [36921]

Mr Hayes: We will set out more detailed plans for the establishment of an all-age careers service—including to local authorities—shortly. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Education are discussing those plans with local authorities, schools, colleges and representative bodies, and a formal advisory group has been established to oversee the implementation of the new service.

Careers Advice: Special Educational Needs

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to ensure that young people with learning difficulties and disabilities in mainstream schools and colleges receive appropriate careers advice under his proposals for an all-age careers service. [36924]

Mr Hayes: Alongside the establishment of an all-age careers service, schools will have responsibility for securing access to independent, impartial careers guidance for all their students, including those young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (LDD). Colleges—which generally operate their own careers guidance services—will also work with the all-age service to ensure young people with LDD receive appropriate careers advice.

Under these arrangements, local authorities will retain their duties to provide young people (and young adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 25) with targeted support, including their responsibility for carrying out learning difficulty assessments.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of recent medical advances in the treatment of myalgic encephalomyelitis; what plans he has for the funding of research in that field over the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [36394]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is an independent body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The MRC is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC's budget for the period of the comprehensive spending review has been set such that their resource expenditure can be maintained in real terms.

The MRC supports research into CFS/ME, and welcomes high-quality investigator-led research applications in this area. In addition to the normal funding mechanism, the MRC has just confirmed a commitment of up to £1.5 million to support research into the causes of CFS/ME. This aims to promote new and innovative partnerships between researchers already working in the CFS/ME field and those in associated areas, such as pain and fatigue. The call will focus on six priority areas which have been identified by the research community and further details will be published by the MRC as they become available. The selection of projects for MRC research funding, submitted through the usual route and to the call, will be determined through peer review.

Consumer Credit: EU Law

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what requirements arising from EU regulations govern *(a)* the use of annual percentage rates (APR) as the primary cost-of-credit measure for consumer credit products, *(b)* the disclosure of APR and/or other cost of credit measures in advertising and communications relating to such products and *(c)* the maximum APR allowable in any segment of the consumer credit market. [37513]

Mr Davey: The requirements governing the use and disclosure of APR for most types of credit agreement are covered by the following regulations, which came fully into force on 1 February 2011:

The Consumer Credit (EU Directive) Regulations 2010, SI 2010 No. 1010, which amend the Consumer Credit Act 1974

The Consumer Credit (Total Charge for Credit) Regulations 2010, SI 2010/1011

The Consumer Credit (Disclosure of Information) Regulations 2010, SI 2010/1013

The Consumer Credit (Agreements) Regulations 2010, SI 2010/1014

The Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 2010, SI 2010/1970

The regulations are available on the OPSI website:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010

There is no maximum APR specified for any segment of the consumer credit market.

Consumers: Advisory Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of co-operating with consumer advice organisations to provide consumer advice in deprived communities. [37506]

Mr Davey: This Department is leading work aimed at making the provision of information, advice and education to consumers simpler and more effective. The organisations at the focus of this work are Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland. These are the umbrella organisations for the Citizens Advice Bureaux that have a unique track record in providing advice to citizens, often those who are vulnerable or come from deprived communities. This includes consumer advice. In 2009/10 Citizens Advice helped 2.1 million people with over 7 million problems at 3,500 locations in England and Wales.

This Department is also discussing with the consumer organisation Which? about making wider use of its online information and thereby reducing the costs to the taxpayer of providing such information.

Departmental Communications

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what measures he has undertaken to reduce jargon and promote plain English in Departmental communications. [35779]

Mr Davey: Advice on using plain English is provided on the BIS intranet as part of the guidance on producing publications. Staff are encouraged to use clear, simple language for departmental publications, pages for the BIS website and ministerial correspondence. Communications staff follow the Government Communications Network core skills for Government communicators to write clearly, concisely and accurately in plain English for all formats. This includes press officers writing departmental press releases in plain English.

In the months before the launch of the new BIS website in March 2010, content to be migrated from the old site was reviewed and updated. As part of this process, BIS produced guidance on writing for the web. This guidance is very clear on the need for plain English and short, simple sentences. In addition, the Digital Team has held a number of writing for the web workshops for policy colleagues.

Departmental Degrees

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 604W, on departmental degrees, whether he has plans to collect information on the number of officials in his Department who have a qualification in an engineering or science subject. [36398]

Mr Davey: We have no plans to collect information on the number of officials with a qualification in a science and engineering subject. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills holds a list of all officials who have identified themselves as part of the science and engineering profession. This ranges from officials in policy roles who have a scientific, engineering or technical background and wish to maintain their analytical skills, to specialists with qualifications and professional experience directly relevant to their current post.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37233]

Mr Davey: This Department has not produced any branded drinks coasters in the current or the previous financial year.

HIV Infection: Research

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has plans to support UK-based research into new drugs to enhance the treatment of those co-infected with tuberculosis and HIV. [37515]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. In keeping with the Haldane principle, prioritisation of an individual research council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers.

The MRC funds investigator-led research in response-mode and encourages research proposals from the academic community. The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding. Awards are made according to their scientific quality and importance to human health. MRC are funding at least three grants currently in this area, and contributing with DFID to a further grant under the European/Developing Country Clinical Trials Process.

Mining: Afghanistan

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist UK mineral mining companies seeking contracts in Afghanistan. [37467]

Mr Davey: Through UK Trade and Investment, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has assisted UK companies interested in Afghanistan during the past year by organising an Afghanistan business event and supporting a Department for International Development seminar led by the Afghanistan Minister for Mining. UKTI is working with stakeholders to map a cross-Whitehall approach to addressing commercial opportunities in Afghanistan, and plans for a further Afghanistan business event this summer which will include mining as a core focus.

Overseas Trade: Middle East

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of *(a)* exports and *(b)* imports including tourism between the UK and (i) Saudi Arabia, (ii) Qatar, (iii) UAE, (iv) Bahrain and (v) Oman in the latest year for which figures are available. [37599]

Mr Davey: Overseas trade statistics data for UK trade in goods with the named countries are shown in the following table:

2009

£ million

	UK exports of goods	*UK imports of goods*
Saudi Arabia	2,648	669
Qatar	778	742
UAE	3,556	1,137
Bahrain	241	26
Oman	350	113

Table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book gives the following figures for UK trade in services (which includes tourism) with the named countries:

2009

£ million

	UK exports of services	*UK imports of services*
Saudi Arabia	2,100	312
Qatar	484	204
UAE	1,779	1,421
Bahrain	299	85
Oman	137	52

Tables 2.10 and 3.10 of 'Travel Trends' give figures for spending in the UK by overseas residents and UK residents' spending abroad. Data are not available for the above countries separately; all are included in the country group 'Other Middle East' (which also includes Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria and the Yemen). In 2009, spending in the UK by visitors from 'Other Middle East' was £675 million and spending by UK residents in 'Other Middle East' was £302 million.

Post Office Card Account: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who have a Post Office Card account. [37464]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested as data held relate to benefit accounts rather than people. Customers may be in receipt of more than one benefit, pension or allowance which could be paid into one Post Office card account (POca).

As at May 2010, the number of benefit and pension accounts being paid into a POca in Bexley and Crayford was 3,610.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which areas are covered by local enterprise partnerships. [36661]

Mr Davey: Details of local enterprise partnerships that have been approved and the area that they cover can be found on the Department's website at the following address:

www.bis.gov.uk/policies/regional-economic-development/leps

Royal Mail

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what topics he discussed with Moya Greene, Chief Executive of Royal Mail at their meeting on 21 May 2010. [37346]

Mr Davey: I met Moya Greene on 21 May 2010, as part of the appointment process for the chief executive of Royal Mail Group. This was an informal meeting and there was no set agenda, although discussion focused on Moya's experience of public and private sector organisations, and in particular her time at Canada Post.

Royal Mail: Public Appointments

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what process was used to recruit the Chief Executive of Royal Mail on the last occasion the appointment was made. [37345]

Mr Davey: The chief executive of Royal Mail is appointed by the board of the company, subject to approval from the Secretary of State. For the most recent appointment we understand that Royal Mail used an executive recruitment specialist who conducted a comprehensive search in the UK and overseas to identify the best talent available. Shortlisted candidates were then interviewed by Royal Mail's nominations committee and the preferred candidate was appointed through that process.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the status is of cases where child maintenance arrears are owed to a resident parent, but new child maintenance payments are no longer being pursued, under his Department's proposed transition to a new child maintenance system. [37466]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the status is of cases where child maintenance arrears are owed to a resident parent but new child maintenance payments are no longer being pursued under his Department's proposed transition to a new child maintenance system. [37466]

Following the introduction of the new statutory child maintenance scheme, the Commission will continue to pursue non-resident parents for any arrears of maintenance that they may owe. This will include any arrears from the schemes currently in operation.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36599]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions has been working since May 2010 with its businesses, staff and suppliers to reduce carbon emissions from its offices, adopting a broad range of practical measures. These measures are designed to build on previous successes which have delivered a 23% (53,000 tonnes of CO_2) reduction across the entire estate in the last three years.

In June the Department and its estates partner Telereal Trillium jointly launched the 'AWaRE' (Avoiding Waste and Reducing Energy) campaign, an ongoing engagement plan designed to harness the enthusiasm of staff to deliver real improvements at a local level. This began by recruiting site-based volunteer 'Energy Wardens'—providing them with a range of resources to help them foster and maintain good, energy conscious behaviours with their colleagues, with ongoing support including targeted messages and stories using the Department's intranet. To complement this, automatic meter reading facilities have been installed at 600 DWP sites to provide half-hourly data to assist in identifying and resolving excessive energy usage.

To incentivise performance, specific energy reduction targets have been set for the Department's businesses. To provide local ownership where issues arise, the Environment brief is being added to the remit of site Health and Safety (or House) Committees.

A range of 'carbon challenges' were agreed by the Department's executive team in September 2010 for immediate implementation. These included identifying and decommissioning unnecessary electrical equipment, improving alignment of heating and occupancy times, disabling cooling at weekends and also between November and April, and switching off unnecessary external lighting. Following consultation with Estates and IT partners, minimum cooling temperatures in server rooms are being increased to 28°C, significantly reducing the cooling burden during the warmer months.

The Department's HQ building (Caxton House) took part in, and won, the Greening Government competition to reduce energy consumption in October. Focusing attention on, and active participation by, those running and using the building delivered a saving of 22%. Best practice from this competition is being used to develop specific engagement activities, as part of AWaRE, for other large campus sites.

In December 2010 a state of the art combined heat and power plant was switched on at Quarry House in Leeds. This is the largest installation of its kind on the civil estate and will save annually at least 428 tonnes of CO_2 and £93,000.

All these measures, together with technical investment in new technology by estates partners, mean that the Department is on track to deliver the 10% target. A longer term plan is being prepared with the Carbon Trust, building on the Department's accreditation to the Carbon Trust Standard last year (the largest public sector organisation to hold the Standard).

Disability Living Allowance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in a residential care and nursing home in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands, *(c)* Dudley borough and *(d)* Dudley North constituency received disability living allowance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [31043]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 16 December 2010]:* Reliable estimates of total disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available as we are unable to identify accurately DLA claimants who meet the full cost of their residential care.

Disability Living Allowance: Hearing and Visual Impairment

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to assess the eligibility of individuals who are *(a)* deaf or hard of hearing and *(b)* blind or partially sighted for disability living allowance payments. [37602]

Maria Miller: Entitlement to disability living allowance is not normally linked to particular disabling conditions, but on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability. People with a visual or hearing impairment can claim disability living allowance in the same way as anyone else.

There are two exceptions to this general rule which specifically affect people with sensory impairments. People who are both deaf and blind are taken to automatically qualify for the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance where they have a 100% per cent disability due to blindness and an 80% disability due to deafness and, by reason of the combined effects of their blindness and deafness, are unable, without the assistance of another person, to walk to any intended or required destination out of doors.

From April this year we are also extending automatic entitlement to the higher rate mobility component to people with prescribed categories of severe visual impairment. The Pension Disability and Carers Service, which is responsible for the administration of disability living allowance, is in the process of contacting all existing recipients of the benefit who have a visual impairment and are in receipt of the lower rate mobility component to ensure that those eligible can be reassessed for entitlement to the higher rate mobility component. We expect this measure to assist over 22,000 people from its introduction.

Employment and Support Allowance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safeguards he has put in place to prevent misdiagnosis at the medical assessment stage of employment and support allowance claims. [37698]

Maria Miller: The Work Capability Assessment is a functional assessment, which looks at what someone can do rather than basing entitlement on their diagnosis and it is therefore not necessary for health care professionals to make a diagnosis of the customer's reported medical conditions.

The work of all health care professionals is subject to quality audit which is conducted by experienced medical auditors within Atos Healthcare. The quality of Atos Healthcare's audit is validated by senior medical auditors from Atos Healthcare and doctors working for the Chief Medical Adviser to the DWP.

The contract between DWP and Atos Healthcare contains a number of quality targets which are monitored on a monthly basis. Quality and accuracy are also monitored through a variety of other methods including monthly management information, customer satisfaction surveys and feedback from complaints.

Employment Schemes: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefits claimants have been assisted into employment through Jobcentre Plus offices in *(a)* West Lothian and *(b)* Scotland in 2010. [34998]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about how many benefit claimants have been assisted into employment through Jobcentre Plus offices in (a) West Lothian and (b) Scotland in each month of 2010. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are many routes into employment and throughout the customer's journey they may have access to a range of services and help provided by Jobcentre Plus or our Private and Voluntary Sector partners to find work. Therefore the type of help required or provided will vary from customer to customer. As this help is not limited solely to Jobcentre Plus and not every customer informs Jobcentre Plus of the reason why they are leaving benefit we are unable to state the total number of benefit claimants Jobcentre Plus have assisted into employment.

We can provide information for Jobseeker's Allowance customers only and the table below, which is taken from data available from the NOMIS website gives the number of Jobseeker's Allowance customers that have moved into work either with our assistance or through other channels. The numbers only show those Jobseeker's Allowance customers who notified us that they have started work. It does not include those people who flowed off benefit into other destinations, for example claimed other benefits or went into Government supported training.

		Number
	West Lothian[1]	*Scotland*
January	305	7,165
February	410	11,030
March	525	12,365
April	465	12,925
May	540	15,200
June	460	11,440
July	455	11,305
August	540	13,165
September	580	12,095
October	660	13,945
November	535	11,220
December	415	10,005

[1] West Lothian (comprises Bathgate, Broxburn and Livingston Jobcentres).

Source:

The NOMIS (National Online Manpower Information Service). This is a departmental performance management, data capture and reporting tool. This type of internal management information does Part of the Department for Work and Pensions not form part of the official statistics outputs that are released by the Department in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice.

Housing Benefit: Great Yarmouth

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of housing benefit in Great Yarmouth received over £400 a week in the latest period for which figures are available. [36776]

Steve Webb: At October 2010, our records show that there were no households in Great Yarmouth local authority receiving housing benefit of over £400 per week.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged over 65 years receive attendance allowance and pension credit. [31895]

Maria Miller: The information requested is in the following table.

Number of claimants receiving both attendance allowance and pension credit in GB—May 2010

	All	*Aged 65 and over*
Attendance Allowance and Pension Credit	707,170	707,140

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Total shows both the number of people in receipt of an allowance and those with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. For a small number of AA cases no age is recorded.
4. Pension Credit was introduced on 6 October 2003 and replaced Minimum Income Guarantee (Income Support for people aged 60 or over). The vast majority of people who were previously in receipt of the Minimum Income Guarantee transferred to Pension Credit in October 2003. These Pension Credit statistics are produced on a different basis to the Early Estimates. The latter are timelier but operational processing times mean that a number of claim commencements and terminations are not reflected in them.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average level of pension of *(a)* a woman and *(b)* a man who retired in 2010. [37517]

Steve Webb: The latest figures available on income from state pension, occupational and personal pensions are in the following tables. Note that the figures are derived from different data sources, and differ in geographical coverage, time period and sample, and are therefore not directly comparable. The first table relates to individuals; the second table relates to benefit units (a benefit unit consists of a single person or a couple).

Table 1. Average total state pension received in March 2010 (£ per week), men and women in Great Britain reaching state pension age in the 2009-10 tax year

	Average amount (£)	*Number of individuals*
Men	123.69	283,500
Women	96.23	290,000

Notes:

1. Total state pension includes all categories of state pension, and includes increments.
2. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest 1p, numbers of individuals are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures do not include women who reached state pension age in the 2009-10 tax year but were not claiming their state pension in March 2010 because they had deferred.
4. Estimates are not yet available for the 2010-11 tax year.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate, 5% sample administrative data

Table 2. Average occupational and personal pension incomes of recently retired benefit units in United Kingdom, 2008-09, £ per week (2010-11 price terms)

	Average amount (£)	*Number of benefit units*
Single pensioners	71	900,000
Of which:		
Men	—	300,000
Women	—	600,000
Pensioner couples	193	1,100,000

"—" There are no estimates of average amounts available separately for single male pensioners and single female pensioners.

Notes:

1. "Recently retired" refers to those single women aged between 60 and 64, single men aged between 65 and 69, and pensioner couples where the head is between 65 and 69 if male, or between 60 and 64 if female.

2. Average amounts are rounded to the nearest £1. Numbers of benefit units are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

3. Estimates are derived from survey data and are not yet available for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Source:

DWP, The Pensioners' Incomes Series 2008-09

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of the savings indentified as accruing from the revised timetable for increasing the state pension age is attributable to *(a)* basic state pension, *(b)* second state pension and *(c)* pension credit paid to (i) men and (ii) women; [37520]

(2) what proportion of the savings indentified as accruing from the revised timetable for increasing the state pension age is attributable to *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [37519]

Steve Webb: The requested proportions are set out in the following table.

		Percentage
	Saving on men	*Saving on women*
Basic State Pension	44	56
Additional Pension	48	52
Pension Credit	58	42
Total saving	46	54

However as shown in the Equality Impact Assessment published in conjunction with the revised timetable, in general men lose a slightly higher proportion of their lifetime pension income than women.

Pensions: Females

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average level of a state second pension paid to a woman retiring in 2010. [37518]

Steve Webb: Latest data show that in March 2010, the average amount of Additional State Pension plus Graduated Retirement Benefit received by women in Great Britain, who reached State Pension age in the 2009-10 tax year, was around £17.00 per week.

Notes:

1. Additional State Pension includes pension derived from the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) and from the State Second Pension (S2P) scheme.

2. The average has been taken over only those individuals receiving Additional State Pension or Graduated Retirement Benefit.

3. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10p.

4. The figure includes inherited amounts, and excludes increments.

5. The figure does not include women who reached State Pension age in the 2009-10 tax year but were not claiming their State Pension in March 2010 because they had deferred.

6. The Department does not yet have an estimate for people reaching State Pension age in the 2010-11 tax year.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate, 5% sample administrative data

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* men and *(b)* women of proposals for reform of public sector pensions. [28070]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government launched the Independent Public Service Pension Commission chaired by Lord Hutton last June to conduct a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision which will report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer before Budget.

Ahead of the spending review Lord Hutton produced an interim report which found that the value of public service pensions had been increasing following dramatic increases in life expectancy at retirement. Current pensioners are expected to spend over 40% of their adult lives in retirement, compared to 30% for pensioners in the 1950s. Most of these extra costs have fallen to employers and taxpayers.

At the spending review, based on the clear rationale set out in Lord Hutton's interim report, the Government announced that they would implement progressive changes to the level of employee contributions to public service pensions that lead to an additional saving of £1.8 billion a year from 2014-15, to be phased in from 2012-13. This is equivalent to a three percentage point increase on average. In taking this decision, the Government considered a range of factors including the impact on gender equality.

In addition, the Government announced their intention to launch consultations on the discount rate used to set contributions in unfunded public service pension schemes and the Fair Deal policy. Any assessment of the impact on gender equality will be undertaken in due course should there be any proposals to change policy.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report,* column 874W, on social security benefits: fraud, where the information on the remaining 362 cases is held. [36219]

Chris Grayling: The 362 prosecution files are held at various locations across England and Wales including FIS offices, prosecution division legal offices, advocates' offices and remote storage.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 874W, on social security benefits: fraud, if he will review the restrictions on publishing the names and other relevant details of those persons who have had warrants issued against them; and if he will assess the merits of publishing such data to assist in locating such persons and recovering public funds. [36220]

Chris Grayling: The Data Protection (Processing of Sensitive Personal Data) (Elected Representatives) Order 2002—SI 2002/2905—provides for the release of personal data where an elected representative is acting pursuant to a request made by a data subject, usually an individual constituent.

As this is not the case here and in these circumstances, the normal data protection laws apply.

Neither the Data Protection Act 1998 nor article 8 of the European convention of human rights provide a legal gateway for the release of names, last known addresses or other personal information of individuals on whom warrants are held.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 1 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 874W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many persons with warrants issued against them are *(a)* non-UK nationals and *(b)* persons not born in the UK. [36221]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people with arrests warrants who are *(a)* non-UK nationals and *(b)* not born in the UK is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Separated People

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has plans to reform the benefits available to separated parents with shared custody arrangements as part of his proposals to develop a universal credit. [34969]

Chris Grayling: We will be considering the detailed arrangements for the universal credit over the coming months.

Vocational Training

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has had discussions with training providers on the future of payment by results. [36039]

Chris Grayling: Since the Government announced their plans for radical reforms of the welfare to work system and the implementation of the Work Programme, as Minister for Employment, I have, along with the Minister for Welfare Reform (Lord Freud), and Officials from the Department for Work and Pensions, frequently met with training providers and associated bodies at which the issue of payment by result may have formed part of the discussion.

The Invitation to Tender (ItT) for the Work Programme was issued to Framework Providers on 22 December 2010. In preparation for this, on 2 December 2010 the Director General for Employment held a meeting with organisations on the Provision of Employment Related Support Services Framework.

On 8 December 2010, a draft of the Work Programme ItT was issued to Framework providers. In addition, an invitation was extended to these organisations to discuss the draft in a meeting with the Minister for Welfare Reform and me on 16 December 2010.

On 20 December 2010, I held an open forum for small providers, voluntary organisations and potential sub-contractors in which issues around the funding model were discussed.

Work Capability Assessment

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which recommendations of the Review of the Work Capability Assessment by Professor Malcolm Harrington his Department has implemented; and what the reasons are for those recommendations it has not implemented. [37321]

Chris Grayling: We welcome the first independent review of the WCA, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. This is a thorough review that has reviewed a substantial amount of evidence. As a result, Professor Harrington has come forward with a wide range of far reaching and challenging proposals which the Government fully supports.

We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective. The Government response to Professor Harrington's review sets out how and when we will implement the recommendations of the review, almost all of which will be in place in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Afghan civilians have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed through (i) ISAF operations and (ii) Taliban operations in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [37704]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newport West (Paul Flynn), on 10 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 392W.

Armed Forces: Absence Without Leave

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces were serving a sentence in the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, for having gone absent without leave while under the age of 18 on the first day of each month between January 2009 and December 2010. [37334]

Mr Robathan: The information requested is presented in the following table.

Date	*Number serving in Military Corrective Training Centre*
2009	
January	1
February	0
March	1

Date	*Number serving in Military Corrective Training Centre*
April	1
May	4
June	5
July	6
August	5
September	4
October	4
November	3
December	1
2010	
January	0
February	2
March	2
April	0
May	1
June	1
July	0
August	0
September	0
October	3
November	5
December	5

Armed Forces: Civil Aviation Authority

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether pilots in the armed forces are subject to regulation by the Civil Aviation Authority. [37289]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* When flying military aircraft as part of their military duty, armed forces pilots are not subject to Civil Aviation Authority regulations.

The Military Aviation Authority regulates, audits and assures all aspects of military aviation.

Armed Forces: Compensation

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for implementation of the increased compensation payments for those ex-service personnel suffering mental health disorders. [37723]

Mr Robathan: Implementation of the recommendations from the Lord Boyce Review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), including the uplift in payments for mental health disorders, will be put into legislation in February 2011. New claimants will be paid the updated amounts from May 2011, and additional payments to those in receipt of previous awards will be made from June 2011 to June 2012.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which schemes will be affected by the proposal to increase payments to ex-service personnel with mental health disorders; and how much funding he plans to allocate to each such scheme; [37729]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the proposal to increase payments for ex-service personnel with mental health disorders in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [37731]

Mr Robathan: The only scheme that will be affected by the proposal to increase payments to ex-service personnel with mental health disorders will be the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), for which financial provision is made by setting aside approximately 2% of the service pay bill each year. The increased payments will be funded through this provision.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department undertook with armed forces charities in advance of the announcement of increased payments for ex-service personnel with mental health disorders. [37733]

Mr Robathan: During the review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS), ministerial and official level consultation was undertaken with the Independent Scrutiny Group (ISG) that supported Lord Boyce. This group included representation from service and ex-service organisations. The Central Advisory Committee on Pensions and Compensation (CAC) also met during this period.

A four-week period of public engagement took place between October and November 2009 to seek views on what issues the AFCS review might cover. A further six-week consultation exercise commenced with members of the CAC in November 2010 to seek their views on the proposed amendments to AFCS legislation.

Armed Forces: Education

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of dependants of service personnel who are being educated in schools in Germany. [37448]

Mr Robathan: The number of dependants of service personnel currently being educated in schools in Germany is approximately 7,000.

Armed Forces: Foreign Nationals

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force are not UK nationals. [36985]

Mr Robathan: The number of non-UK personnel serving in each of the services is presented in the following table.

Non-UK nationals serving in the UK regular forces at 1 December 2010

	Number
All services	9,220
Naval Service	840
Army	8,250
RAF	130

Army: Redundancy

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army personnel took voluntary redundancy in each of the last three years. [36506]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 27 January 2011]*: There have been no voluntary redundancies in the Army during the last three years.

The Army does not have a voluntary redundancy programme—there have only ever been compulsory redundancy schemes. As part of the process of determining who should be made compulsorily redundant such schemes would normally invite interested personnel to apply for redundancy. Final decisions would depend on the Army's future manning requirements.

Departmental ICT

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's (a) computers, (b) laptops and (c) memory sticks were (i) lost and (ii) stolen in each month in 2010. [36077]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence takes any loss of information and associated media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place to militate against such occurrences. New processes, instructions and technological aids are also being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise awareness of every individual in the Department.

The following table details how many computers, laptops and USB flash memory devices were lost and stolen in each month in 2010.

Lost and stolen CIS 2010

	Computers		*Laptops*		*USB flash memory devices*	
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*
January	0	1	2	4	1	0
February	0	1	5	6	5	0
March	0	0	9	3	1	0
April	1	0	1	4	4	2
May	1	0	5	1	3	0
June	0	7	3	36	2	0
July	0	0	3	1	2	0
August	1	0	3	6	9	0
September	0	0	3	1	14	0
October	9	0	5	2	3	0
November	0	0	5	8	2	0
December	0	0	1	4	1	1
Total	12	9	45	76	47	3

Note:
These totals do not include incidents which are currently under investigation but current indications are that they relate to accounting anomalies during force rotation and/or disposal activities.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new *(a)* units and *(b)* teams have been established within his Department since May 2010; and what the (i) name, (ii) purpose, (iii) staffing level and (iv) annual running cost is in each case. [36956]

Mr Robathan: Changes to units and teams within the Ministry of Defence (MOD), as in any large organisation, are made frequently to take account of changing requirements and priorities and the need to constantly improve effectiveness and efficiency.

Since May 2010, the following new units and teams with new remits and responsibilities headed by a senior civil servant, military one-star officer or above or equivalents have been established within the MOD:

Name	*Purpose*	*Staffing level*
Directorate Children and Young People	To set the Defence-wide direction for the strategy, structures, governance and quality assurance for the co-ordination of those services that support Service children and young people, at home and overseas.	[1]8
Project AVANTI	To restructure the Army's Personnel Support Command at regional Division and Brigade levels following the Strategic Defence and Security Review.	[2]3
XO Air Command	Programme direction for the implementation of the Capability Structures Review and subsequent change programmes within the Air HQ on behalf of Commander-in-Chief Air, following the Strategic Defence and Security Review.	44
Defence Equipment and Support Airworthiness Team	To provide timely airworthiness support to Defence Equipment and Support teams to enable them to produce and support airworthy systems that can be operated safely through-life and to assure Chief of Materiel (Air) that airworthiness is being effectively managed.	20
Submarine Enterprise Performance Programme	To work collaboratively with the three Tier 1 Industrial Partners to transform the way the submarine enterprise is delivered and managed, following the Value for Money Review and the Strategic Defence and Security Review.	15
Portfolio Management Office Team within the Defence Estates Strategy and Policy Directorate	To take forward Strategic Defence and Security Review implementation work.	7
Defence Reform Unit	To support the Defence Reform Steering Group in conducting a fundamental examination of how the Ministry of Defence is structured and managed.	21

[1] Including the Director who also acts as Chief Executive of The Service Children's Education Agency.
[2] Three dedicated posts embedded within an existing programme team.

All of these posts have been filled by reprioritising staff from other tasks and teams. The budgets to cover the running costs of these units and teams are allocated as part of the MOD's annual planning round, which is not yet concluded. The establishment of these units and teams, however, has not required an increase in the overall Defence budget.

Details of the organisation of the Ministry of Defence are published on the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/Structure/DepartmentalOrganisationCharts1.htm

Departmental Redundancy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate has been made of the cost to his Department of redundancies in each of the next five financial years. [37019]

Mr Robathan: We are refining the estimated costs of redundancy and early release as we go through the Department's annual Planning Round. Compensation payments depend on a number of factors including salary, rank/grade and length of service. The precise drawdown of military and civilian staff is still being considered. Estimates are therefore subject to change. The Planning Round is expected to conclude in the spring at which point we will be prepared to set out the estimates for early release under the expected terms of the civilian and service schemes.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what grounds his Department is contesting the claims of atomic veterans in the War Pensions Tribunal; and if he will make a statement. [36795]

Mr Robathan: All applications for war pensions are considered on their particular facts of the case. We do not comment on individual cases. Where a claim is rejected individuals have a right to appeal to an independent tribunal.

The Ministry of Defence has rejected some war pensions relating to nuclear test veterans and each appellant has been given reasons in writing. The veterans are now appealing those reasons to the tribunal and the Secretary of State is defending the reasons for rejection given in each case.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish each document held by his Department and not yet released relating to British nuclear tests in the South Pacific. [37598]

Mr Robathan: In accordance with the Public Records Acts, the Ministry of Defence withholds from release to the public at the National Archives files that are over 30 years old, or extracts from them, if and for so long as their contents are judged to be sensitive.

In relation to nuclear test veterans and recent legal proceedings, the Ministry of Defence has worked closely with the High Court and the War Pensions Tribunal with a view to ensuring that relevant material from classified documents can be used, subject to special security arrangements.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on an out-of-court settlement for British nuclear test veterans. [37725]

Mr Robathan: The Secretary of State for Defence has not discussed with the Prime Minister an out-of-court settlement for British nuclear test veterans.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to *(a)* lease and *(b)* purchase (i) P-3 Orion, (ii) Airbus A319 MPA and (iii) P-8 Poseidon aircraft. [37263]

Peter Luff: We currently have no plans to lease or purchase P-3 Orion, Airbus A319 MPA or P-8 Poseidon aircraft. However, following the decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service we are keeping our future requirement for maritime patrol aircraft under review.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the suitability of the electronic equipment removed from the MRA4 for installation on P-3 Orion aircraft. [37264]

Peter Luff: No such assessment has been made. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 1024W.

Nimrod Aircraft: Radar

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Searchwater radar installed on the Nimrod MR2 was removed for future use on other aircraft. [37261]

Peter Luff: Some elements of the Searchwater radar installed on the Nimrod MR2 aircraft have been retained as spares for use on the Royal Navy's Airborne Surveillance and Area Control Sea King helicopter which is fitted with a variant of the same radar.

Orion Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his officials have had with officials of the United States Air Force on the leasing of P-3 Orion aircraft. [37262]

Peter Luff: No discussions have taken place with officials from the United States Air Force on leasing P-3 Orion aircraft.

Rescue Services

Mr Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future use of armed forces pilots in search and rescue services under his proposals for the future of such services. [37288]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr Hammond) on 16 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 133WS. It would be inappropriate to comment on any specific aspects of the project in advance of a further announcement on the way forward.

Reserve Forces

Mr Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to announce the outcome of his Department's study of reserve forces. [36828]

Mr Robathan: The review is to conclude in the summer.

A copy of the terms of reference for the Future Reserves 2020 study, which is being led by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and my hon. Friend the Member for Canterbury (Mr Brazier), has been placed in the Library of the House.

War Pensions

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rates of travel and subsistence expenses can be claimed from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency by war pensioners; when the current rates were implemented; and whether he has plans to review the rates in the light of increases in the cost of travel and subsistence. [37099]

Mr Robathan: The rate payable to war disablement pensioners, for travel costs incurred when obtaining treatment for service related conditions, is 25 pence per mile, although 43 pence per mile may be paid for severely disabled war pensioners.

An escort allowance of three pence per mile can be claimed. Alternatively, war pensioners can claim the actual cost of public transport for them and an approved escort. Subsistence costs for the war pensioner and an approved escort can also be claimed. In 2007 the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) aligned the review process with that of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). HMRC have not changed their rates since 2007 and the war pensions rates have therefore remained constant. No reviews are planned before the next Budget.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Social Security Benefits

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the backlog in appeals was for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance in each of the last eight quarters. [37319]

Mr Djanogly: There are always a number of 'live' appeals in the First tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) progressing through the stages of receipt, decision and promulgation. These levels of 'work in hand' for the relevant benefits at the time points requested are set out in the following table.

Number of ESA/IB appeals 'in hand'

Quarter	*Caseload for ESA/IB combined*
2008	
December	20,200
2009	
March	19,600
June	23,100
September	39,800
December	59,800
2010	
March	74,400
June	85,400
September	99,200

Note:
We are not able to provide information for incapacity benefit (IB) and employment support allowance (ESA) separately. The table shows the caseload for the 04 tribunal category, which consists of IB and ESA cases. However, it is possible that small numbers of these are captured in other tribunal categories.

The total level of work in hand cannot be described as a backlog. As the volumes of SSCS receipts increased significantly and rapidly beyond forecast, the capacity of the Tribunals Service to deal with them has also increased in response; the number of employment support allowance and incapacity benefit cases disposed of in the second quarter of 2010-11 was more than double those cleared in the equivalent period the preceding year.

In September 2010, in respect of employment support allowance and incapacity benefit appeals, capacity increases meant that around a third of the work in hand was in excess of normal levels. As the Tribunals Service capacity continues to increase, it expects to return to normal levels of work in hand for employment support allowance and incapacity benefit cases by summer 2011.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions the reasons for recent trends in the volume of appeals against employment and support allowance decisions. [37320]

Mr Djanogly: Ministers in both Departments are in regular contact about the recent trends in the volume of appeals against employment and support allowance decisions.

To support this, officials in the Tribunals Service and the Department for Work and Pensions are working closely together through a joint Task Force. The Task Force aims both to reduce the level of appeals arising through improved initial decision making and to increase capacity within the Tribunals Service to deal with the additional workload.

Bribery

Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have made representations to him advocating a delay in the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Bribery Act 2010; [36963]

(2) whether he plans to publish *(a)* the responses received and *(b)* the names of respondees to the consultation on guidance relating to the implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. [36964]

Mr Djanogly: As regards representations to delay implementation, the recent consultation on the statutory guidance on the procedures that relevant commercial organisations can put in place focused on the content of the guidance not on the timing of implementation. Some respondents however also referred to issues of timing.

Subject to considering any particular requests for confidentiality, we intend to publish the written responses received, and the names of those who responded, to the consultation on guidance about commercial organisations preventing bribery. This will include any representations made either to delay implementation or to proceed as planned or more swiftly.

Cartel Client Review

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken in respect of *(a)* Cartel Client Review and *(b)* its office holders since March 2010; what the status of the company is; and if he will make a statement. [37514]

Mr Djanogly: The authorisation of Cartel Client Review Ltd. to provide regulated Claims Management Services was cancelled on 18 June 2010. A business would be committing a criminal offence if it provided regulated claims management services without authorisation. Cartel Client Review Ltd. was taken into compulsory liquidation in the summer of 2010 on the petition of HM Customs and Excise and a liquidator was appointed on the 16 August 2010. The High Court considered the actions of Cartel Client Review Ltd., its directors and Consumer Credit Litigation Solicitors in Addis and Ors *v.* The Royal Bank of Scotland plc [2010]. EWHC 941 (QB) (29 April 2010).

Chief Coroner

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of reviewing the role of the chief coroner. [36791]

Mr Djanogly: On 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 36-38WS, I announced to Parliament the Government's intention to abolish the office of chief coroner and transfer certain functions to other suitable bodies. This decision was taken in the context of the current economic circumstances, and the need for Government to make substantial savings to deal with the budget deficit. Given, for example, the legal aid reforms and the programme of court closures that we have proposed as part of our efficiency savings, we do not believe that the new additional funding that the office of chief coroner would require is justifiable. I am confident that we can address the key requirements of coroner reform without the office of chief coroner.

Courts: Fees and Charges

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on applying the proposed 10% reduction in civil court fees to the County Court Possession Duty scheme. [36932]

Mr Djanogly: The Housing Possession Court Duty Schemes funded by the Legal Service Commission provides free on-the-day advice and representation for people facing repossession.

The proposal is that the 10% reduction in the level of fees paid to legal aid providers, as set out in the Government's recent consultation "Proposals for the Reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales", will apply to all fees paid under the civil and family legal aid scheme, including work carried out under the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37236]

Mr Djanogly: There are no central records for expenditure on coasters for the financial year 2009-10. It would incur disproportionate costs to examine every transaction to see if coasters were involved.

In the financial year 2010-11, there is a Government-wide freeze on advertising and marketing expenditure. Should cases be brought forward for branded coasters these would be declined.

Ford Prison: Manpower

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the operational staffing requirement for *(a)* operational managers, *(b)* prison officer grades and *(c)* operational support grades at HM Prison Ford was on 31 March in each of the last 10 years. [34113]

Mr Blunt: The information provided by the establishment is contained in the following table and is for 31 March for the respective year.

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
OSG	31	34	33	34	33	33	32	32	32	35
Principal Officer/DPSM	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Operational Manager/Senior Manager	5	6	6	5	8	6	7	8	6.4	5.4
Prison Officer	45	46	46	45.5	52	49	51	49	51	51
Senior Officer	14	15	15	14	16	10	10	11	10	10
Grand total	99	104	104	103.5	114	103	105	105	104.4	105.4

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he intends to answer the letter sent to him by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) on 23 November 2010, with regard to Mr A Richards. [37227]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I apologise for the delay in responding. A reply will be sent shortly.

Prison Service: ICT

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the use of In-Vision for staff rostering purposes in the Prison Service; and if he will make a statement; [36979]

(2) what assessment he has made of the use of In-Vision for staff rostering purposes in the Prison Service; and if he will make a statement. [36980]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(1) In April 2010 My Detail (In-Vision staff roster tool) was installed in all public sector prison establishments.

A post-implementation review of the tool assessing both effectiveness and use has yet to be completed. However, in August/September 2010 the Department's My Detail central support team assessed the level of use of the tool by each establishment. As a consequence of this review a national implementation plan was developed with each establishment placed in one of three categories identifying the level of support required for them to achieve efficient and effective use of the tool. Since late autumn the central team has been working with establishments in accordance with the implementation plan.

Delays in the full implementation of the system have meant that the focus of the Department has been in ensuring that it is fully deployed in all prison establishments. Once this is completed the system will be subject to on-going assessments to ensure that it meets the requirements of the prison service. A post-implementation review is planned to take place nine to 12 months after full deployment across the whole estate.

(2) My Detail (In-Vision staff roster tool) was installed in all public sector prisons in April 2010. The system is now actively used in 111 public sector jails, fully deployed in 92; with partial deployment in 19 establishments.

It has yet to be fully implemented in the remaining 18 establishments however nine of this group are expected to complete implementation before the end of this financial year (March 2011).

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what cost savings have been achieved by the National Offender Management Service following the introduction of In-Vision for staff rostering purposes in the Prison Service; what savings to the public purse he estimates will arise from its use in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [36981]

(2) what *(a)* development and *(b)* implementation costs were incurred by the National Offender Management Service in relation to the In-Vision self-rostering IT programme; and if he will make a statement; [36988]

(3) what the running costs were of the In-Vision self-rostering IT programme in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [36989]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:

(1) The first tranche of savings from the project saw establishment budgets being reduced for the 2009-10 financial year onwards: this amounted to £3 million per annum. Over the course of the project life this budget reduction equates to £9 million.

The second tranche of savings will come from the post-implementation review of My Detail. Already evidence of significant savings has emerged where the tool has been fully deployed. For example one establishment has been able to significantly reduce the amount of 'time off in lieu' (TOIL) since My Detail came in to use. This reduction (approximately 3,000 hours per annum) is attributed to having a greater visibility over staff on duty leading to improved utilisation of those staff across the establishment and across the day.

(2) The costs outlined as follows cover the investment made by NOMS during the lifetime of the project (October 2007 to April 2010):

(a) Total development costs (as at April 2010) were £14.4 million; this figure includes the cost of development, testing and maintenance.

(b) Implementation costs including cost of training and on-site implementation support to establishments were £1.7 million.

(3) My Detail is yet to be operational for a full financial year but it is anticipated that total running costs for 2010-11 will be £1.9 million.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which prisons are using In-Vision for staff rostering purposes; and if he will make a statement. [36990]

Mr Blunt: In-Vision (My Detail) is now in use in 111 public sector jails and fully deployed in 92; it has yet to be fully implemented in the remaining 18 establishments. It is anticipated that by the end of the current financial year My Detail will be in use in all but nine establishments. For this group detailed local implementation plans are being prepared which will ensure that the system is fully deployed across the whole estate by the end of 2011.

Tribunals

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Tribunals Service has not published the number and outcomes of appeals concerning incapacity benefit and other social security benefits between the second quarter of 2006 and the fourth quarter of 2008-09; and if he will place such information in the Library. [37318]

Mr Djanogly: Social Security and Child Support Appeals became the responsibility of the Tribunals Service on 1 April 2006. The introduction of a new computer system during 2006-07 meant that appeals information was not available for that year.

A table giving information on volumes and outcomes from 2007-08 to 2008-09 will be placed in the Library of the House.

In 2009, the Code of Practice for Official Statistics was extended to include management information and administrative data. The Chief Statistician reviewed all non-financial information for the Ministry of Justice and arm's length bodies. In line with this code, in June 2010, the Tribunals Service started to publish Official Statistics on a quarterly basis, providing data for the fourth quarter of 2009-10 and for the annual 2009-10 period. These are available on the Tribunals Service website at:

http://www.tribunals.gov.uk/Tribunals/Publications/publications.htm

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on photography in each of the last three financial years. [36941]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to respond to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 1 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has spent £21,757.40 on photography in the last three financial years as follows:

	£
2008-09	2,927.40
2009-10	18,230.40
2010-11	600.00
Total	21,757.40

The costs include the purchase of digital images from online libraries in addition to the use of photographers.

The main reason for the increase in expenditure in 2009/10 was the extra photography work used for the launch and reporting of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in 2009.

The work on CAA was led by the Commission on behalf of the six partner inspectorates. Marketing costs for CAA and the Oneplace reporting website were supported by a grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government. Subsequently the new government announced the abolition of CAA in June 2010.

The Commission uses photographs for its printed publications and websites.

Audit Commission: Public Appointments

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which commissioners on the Board of the Audit Commission who had expressed a willingness to serve a further term on the Board have not had their term renewed in the last three years; and which commissioners were subsequently appointed in their place. [36875]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced in August 2010 that the Audit Commission would be disbanded and the work of its audit practice transferred to the private sector. My right hon. Friend decided that the Commission Board needed additional private sector expertise to help steer the organisation as it addresses these changes. Accordingly he appointed three Commissioners (Janet Baker, Brian Landers and Tony Harris) with significant private sector expertise, and decided that Dame Denise Piatt and Jenny Watson would not be reappointed after their first terms expired on 31 August 2010. The Secretary of State wrote to both Dame Denise Piatt and Ms Watson to thank them for their service.

Community Development

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will assess the threat posed to community cohesion by far-left extremism. [36903]

Andrew Stunell: The Government will not tolerate those who spread hate and seek to divide society and deliberately raise community tensions. The Government, working with police and other agencies, routinely assesses community tensions.

Where appropriate suitable measures are taken at community level by the relevant authorities to counter the influence of extremists and minimise their impact.

Council Housing: Sales

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* freehold and *(b)* leasehold local authority-owned homes were sold in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [36912]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of local authority housing sales in England can be found in table 1 of "Social Housing Sales to Sitting Tenants, England 2009-10". However this information does not distinguish between freehold and leasehold sales.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/doc/17207661.doc

Corresponding information for Wales is published in table 3 of "New House Building and Social Housing Sales, July to September 2010".

http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2010/101215sdr2222010en.pdf

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10% by June 2011. [36601]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has implemented a range of measures in working towards the 10% reduction target.

DCLG's strategy has centred on maximising low and no cost measures, including adopting lean building management techniques such as reducing operating hours of equipment, and switching off non-essential lighting. This approach allows for rapid implementation and immediate benefit in accruing emissions reductions without the need for capital investment.

The Department has also developed changes in behaviour to help encourage staff to reduce their direct energy use, such as by using stairs rather than lifts, reducing printing further, and reminding staff to switch of computers and monitors whenever not in use. Board-level commitment has also ensured that carbon reduction is suitably prioritised at all levels across the Department.

A number of modest capital projects, with short returns on investment, have also been undertaken, including installation of voltage reduction equipment, boiler optimisers, fan and motor controls, and automated meter readers.

DCLG will continue to monitor its progress towards the 10% target.

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr Raynsford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on legal advice in December 2010. [35777]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* According to departmental records, in the month of December 2010, £166,778.35 was spent on external legal services.

As I indicated in a previous answer to the right hon. Member, this compares to a comparable spend of £4.8 million in 2009-10.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37247]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show no expenditure on branded drinks coasters in the last financial year 2009-10 or to date.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list each overseas visit undertaken by Ministers in his Department in 2009-10; at which hotels those Ministers stayed at the public expense during such visits; and what the purpose was of each such visit. [36942]

Robert Neill: The information requested is as follows:

Minister

Right hon. Sadiq Khan MP

Date: 5-9 April 2009

Destination: Karachi, Islamabad and Mipur, Pakistan

Purpose of trip: Ministerial visit on Preventing Extremism

Date: 17-20 May 2009

Destination: Riyadh Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia

Purpose of trip: Ministerial visit on Preventing Extremism

Right hon. John Denham MP

Date: 3-7 January 2010

Destination: Dhaka and Sylhet, Bangladesh

Purpose of trip: Meeting with Bangladeshi Government and community representatives

Iain Wright MP

Date: 18-21 March 2009

Destination: Pisa, Italy

Purpose of trip: Seminar on energy efficiency

Date: 30-31 March 2009

Destination: Paris, France

Purpose of trip: Participating in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Right hon. Rosie Winterton MP

Date: 16 November 2009

Destination: Utrecht, Netherlands

Purpose of trip: Attendance of the Council of European Ministers Conference

Date: 17 March 2010

Destination: Malaga, Spain

Purpose of trip: European Conference on Local and Regional Government

We are not disclosing the names of hotels used for ministerial visits for security reasons.

Departmental Plants

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on cut flowers under the Mitie Integrated Facilities Management Contract from the date on which the contract was initiated to the end of April 2010. [36877]

Robert Neill: The Department has not incurred any expenditure on the provision of cut flowers.

In July 2004, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister signed a contract with Mitie for maintenance of internal plants in Eland House. The following table identifies how much that Department and subsequently the Department for Communities and Local Government spent on this:

Contract year	*Cost £*
July 2004 to June 2005	5,555.88
July 2005 to June 2006	5,555.88
July 2006 to June 2007	6,634.32
July 2007 to June 2008	6,634.32
July 2008 to June 2009	6,634.32
July 2009 to June 2010	6,454.58
July 2010 to September 2010	1,388.97
Total	38,858.27

In July 2010, the Department gave due notice that this contract would be terminated and the contract formally ended in September 2010.

The pot plants are owned by the Department, rather than leased, and following suggestions by staff in feedback on departmental cost savings, the plants will be looked after by departmental staff on a voluntary basis.

No new pot plants have been procured since May 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on taxis since May 2010. [34487]

Robert Neill: The Department has spent £90,215 on taxis since May 2010.

To put this in context in the previous financial year, 2009-10, the Department spent £292,346.

Staff have been reminded that, wherever practicable, they should use public transport for all official journeys.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on conferences since May 2010. [34488]

Robert Neill: According to departmental records £321,164 was spent on conferences from May until the end of the year 2010.

Since the new administration came into place the Department has implemented an advertising and marketing freeze, which includes conferences and delegate attendance.

The majority of these spend data refer to items procured in the last financial year and paid for this term.

Expenditure on conferences for the two previous years was:

2008-09: £2,137,312

2009-10: £1,965,843

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on hospitality since May 2010. [34522]

Robert Neill: Departmental records show the following spend on hospitality from May to December 2010. Hospitality is defined here as food and drink provided for meetings, etc.

	May to December 2010 (£)
Spend on hospitality with the Department's facilities management supplier	116,951
Spend on hospitality with other suppliers	9,610
Spend on hospitality through Government Procurement Card (GPC)	6,399
Total spend on hospitality	132,960

To place this in context, in the last financial year 2009-10 the Department spent the following:

	2009-10 (£)
Spend on hospitality with the Department's facilities management supplier	337,621
Spend on hospitality with other suppliers	106,616
Spend on hospitality through Government Procurement Card (GPC)	11,906
Total spend on hospitality	456,142

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants were appointed on fixed-term contracts without open competition in his Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and what their job titles were in each case. [36899]

Robert Neill: In the financial year 2008-09, 19 civil servants were employed on fixed-term contracts in the Department for Communities and Local Government under limited competition. A further 24 were appointed in 2009-2010.

The 19 civil servants appointed under limited competition in 2008-09 had job titles of:

Four administrative officers
Seven executive officers
Five higher executive officers
Two senior executive officers
One Grade 7

The 24 civil servants appointed under limited competition in 2009-10 had job titles of:

Five administrative officers
10 executive officers
Three higher executive officers
One senior executive officer
Two Grade 7s
One Grade 6
One deputy director (SCS pay band 1)
One legal trainee

All of the appointments, besides four made in 2009-10, have since been terminated.

Departments: Credit Cards

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on its corporate credit card facility in 2009-10. [36892]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 1 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission has given designated staff Government Procurement Cards (GPC) for small ad hoc business purchases as the most efficient way of dealing with low cost purchasing for items such as office stationary, travel and small items of IT equipment. We moved to a new Commission-wide purchasing system in June 2010. This has enabled us to reduce the number of spending categories and the number of card holders to 32.

The Commission spent £505,907.62 on its GPC cards in the financial year 2009/2010. This was for 3,898 transactions, at an average cost of £129.46 and covered mainly stationery purchases, travel and accommodation, and IT equipment and supplies.

Empty Property

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders were *(a)* applied for by local authorities and *(b)* authorised by Residential Property Tribunals in each year since 2006. [36676]

Andrew Stunell: A list of empty dwelling management orders *(a)* applied for by local authorities and *(b)* authorised by the Residential Property Tribunal Service in each year since 2006 is given as follows:

	EDMO applied for	*EDMO authorised by RPTS*
2006	2	0
2007	14	12
2008	15	10
2009	10	8
2010	22	13
2011	1	0

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation his Department undertook with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other stakeholders before announcing his planned reforms to empty dwelling management orders. [36677]

Andrew Stunell: Over the summer the Department gathered evidence from local authorities, housing associations and others on what further steps could be taken to bring empty homes back into use through a series of events held in London and Manchester. The Minister for Housing and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), also took part in the Homes and Communities Agency's online debate on maximising the use of empty homes. The online debate was visited 7,221 times and 138 comments were posted. 40% of participants were from the public sector, 25% were from the civic sector, 21% from the private sector.

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to London borough councils to reduce the incidence of long-term empty dwellings. [36679]

Andrew Stunell: £192.2 million Private Sector Renewal funding was allocated to London boroughs over the period 2008-11. While work to bring empty homes back into use is a key feature of private sector renewal work, this was an un-ringfenced funding stream, and the Department does not collect information on how funding has been used. However, the Mayor of London's Housing Strategy reports that £60 million of Private Sector Renewal funding has been allocated to bring empty homes in London back into use over this period.

We are proposing to give local authorities a powerful financial incentive to take action on empty homes by including them in the New Homes Bonus. And we intend to provide £100 million over the spending review period to bring over 3,000 empty homes nationally back into use as affordable rented housing.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from local authorities following his decision to retain empty dwelling management orders. [36337]

Andrew Stunell: We have received a number of representations on our proposals to amend empty dwelling management orders including one from the Empty Homes Network whose membership consists of local authority empty homes practitioners.

Our proposals will allow local authorities to take action against genuinely derelict housing which blight neighbourhoods, while introducing new safeguards to respect the right of responsible home owners.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to respond to the Fire Futures review of options for the future provision of fire and rescue services in England; and if he will make a statement. [36384]

Robert Neill: I am considering the Fire Futures reports I received from the sector on 15 December 2010 and intend to formally respond in March.

Fire Services: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average response time was for fire appliances in London attending *(a)* dwelling fires, *(b)* commercial building fires and *(c)* road traffic accidents in each of the last 12 months. [36383]

Robert Neill: The average response times for fire appliances in London attending *(a)* dwelling fires, *(b)* commercial building fires and *(c)* road traffic collisions in each of the last 12 months for which data are available are shown in the following table.

Response times[1] in minutes to dwelling fires, commercial building fires and road traffic collisions in Greater London, October 2009 to September 2010[2]

Minutes

Period	*Dwelling fires[3]*	*Commercial buildings[4]*	*Road traffic collisions*
October 2009	5.9	6.0	6.5
November 2009	6.7	5.6	6.7
December 2009	6.1	6.9	6.9
January 2010	6.0	6.0	6.5
February 2010	5.8	5.1	5.9
March 2010	5.9	5.1	6.8
April 2010	5.8	4.8	6.6
May 2010	6.1	6.2	6.5
June 2010	6.6	7.2	7.7
July 2010	6.6	7.1	7.3
August 2010	6.4	6.6	7.2
September 2010	6.8	6.8	7.0

[1] As per previous figures, excludes fires where (i) there was heat and smoke damage only, (ii) the call was made after the fire was known to be extinguished, (iii) where the response time calculated gives an hour or more. This is to prevent any erroneous data or exceptional incidents from skewing the average figures.
[2] Data are provisional.
[3] In order to be consistent with data source prior to April 2009, chimney fires not included in calculation.
[4] Commercial buildings are taken to be offices and call centres and buildings in the following sectors: retail, wholesale, hotels, holiday accommodation, food and drink, transport, vehicle repair and communications.
Source:
DCLG analysis of Incident Recording System data

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when Ministers in his Department last *(a)* met and *(b)* corresponded with (i) the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, (ii) employees of AssetCo and (iii) representatives of AssetCo; and if he will place in the Library (A) details of those discussions and (B) copies of such correspondence. [36385]

Robert Neill: I last met with the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority on 18 January 2011 to discuss national functions in the Fire and Rescue Service. I last corresponded with the Chair, along with all other Fire and Rescue Authorities Chairs on 13 January 2011 to alert him to the consultation on the future of Fire and Rescue control services. I met employees of AssetCo on 11 October.

It is not our practice to place internal notes of confidential meetings between Ministers and other parties in the Library of the House. However, I have placed a copy of my last correspondence with the Chair of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority as requested.

Home Ownership

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the Homes and Communities Agency's underspend was on Home Ownership for People with Long-Term Disabilities products *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the North West Region in the latest period for which figures are available; [36344]

(2) what funding was allocated to the Homes and Communities Agency for expenditure on Home Ownership for People Living with Long-Term Disabilities products in the North West region in the latest period for which figures are available; [36447]

(3) what plans he has to ensure that Home Ownership for People Living with Long-Term Disabilities products continue to be offered where to do so is in line with Government policy; [36448]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the continuation of Home Ownership for People Living with Long-Term Disabilities products since the publication of Valuing people now. [36449]

Andrew Stunell: Home Ownership for people with Long-Term Disabilities (HOLD) enables people who are unable to access the Government's mainstream new build low-cost home ownership programme, due to the need to live in a specific location, to purchase a property on the open market suitable to their needs on shared ownership terms with a housing association.

My Department, through the Homes and Communities Agency, provides capital funding to housing providers to assist them with the purchase of properties under HOLD. There is no separate funding for the scheme and registered housing providers can bid for funding from the Affordable Housing Programme at any time. As announced in the spending review, we are investing £4.5 billion to deliver 150,000 affordable homes. This will include support for the provision of shared ownership and the HOLD scheme where this is a local priority. My officials work closely with officials at the Department of Health regarding the HOLD scheme.

Since 2006, the Department has invested £15.9 million to help 430 households purchase a home on shared ownership terms through the HOLD scheme.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 438W, on housing revenue accounts, what the *(a)* amounts distributed to authorities in deficit, *(b)* amounts contributed by authorities in surplus and *(c)* net expenditure by the Exchequer were to date in the financial year 2010-11. [36887]

Andrew Stunell: The overall surpluses, deficits and the net housing revenue account subsidy position are given in the following table:

Housing revenue account subsidy 2010-11

	£
Total surpluses (receipts)	-910,667,965
Total deficits (payments)	400,768,302
Net housing revenue account subsidy	-509,899,663

Notes:
1. All assumed surpluses are captured and transferred to the Exchequer. Payments to authorities in deficit are not dependent on the amounts received from those in surplus.
2. Data are taken from the second advance subsidy claim for the year and are subject to adjustment.

Measures have been published in the Localism Bill to reform the housing revenue account finance regime and replace housing revenue account subsidy with a system of self-financing for local housing authorities.

Local Government Association: Freedom of Information

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward legislative proposals to make the Local Government Association subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [36902]

Robert Neill: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles), specifically indicated his intention that the Local Government Group should be formally subject to Freedom of Information requirements, as part of the agreement to continue paying Revenue Support Grant top-slice funding on behalf of the sector. The Ministry of Justice announced on 7 January that it intends to consult the Local Government Association regarding its possible inclusion in the Freedom of Information Act.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the change in the level of aggregate business rate revenue as a result of the increase in empty property business rates since 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [36890]

Robert Neill: From 1 April 2008, the liability of owners of empty non-industrial properties was raised to 100% (from 50%) of the occupied rate after a three -month exemption period; and of empty industrial properties to 100% (previously exempt) of the occupied rate after a six-month exemption period. The rateable value threshold below which empty properties were exempt from rates remained at £2,200.

For 2009-10, the threshold was raised from £2,200 to £15,000; and for 2010-11, was raised again to £18,000. This is due to revert to £2,600 for 2011-12. However, the Government will keep this matter under review.

Data on the amount of empty property relief granted are collected annually from local authorities. The following table shows the amount of empty property rate relief awarded since 2007-08.

Table 1: Empty property rate relief since 2006-07

£ million

	2007-08		*2008-09*		*2009-10*		*2010-11*[1]
Empty Property Relief	1,294.0	[2]—	487.0	[2]—	1,117.9	[2]—	907.8

[1] Those for 2010-11 are budget estimates.
[2] Discontinuity.
Note:
Data for 2007-08 to 2009-10 are outturn figures

Although amendments to empty property relief policy explain part of the change in the amount of empty property relief awarded, factors such as the number of empty properties and the length of time properties are left empty can also contribute.

As I outlined in my answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 929W, this illustrates the significant revenue costs of undoing the tax changes imposed by the last Government. The new Government's ability to tackle the last Government's tax changes is constrained by the overwhelming public policy objective of addressing the budget deficit we have inherited.

Non-domestic Rates: Sports

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the practice of local authorities *(a)* withdrawing and *(b)* capping discretionary rate relief on sport and leisure facilities. [36852]

Robert Neill: None. The granting of discretionary relief is entirely a matter for individual billing authorities. They must satisfy themselves that they are acting within relevant legislation and case law. Notwithstanding that, the Localism Bill will increase the powers of local authorities to offer local business rate discounts.

Planning

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his timetable is for publication of the national planning policy framework. [37559]

Robert Neill: In the Department for Communities and Local Government business plan the Government indicated that we expect to have the framework available by April 2012. The Government will consult on a draft.

Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what files his Department holds on the Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill of Session 1989-90; and if he will make a statement. [36699]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government holds no files on the Raoul Wallenberg (Memorial) Bill of Session 1989-90.

Rented Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency allocated to *(a)* Axiom Housing Association and *(b)* Minster Housing Association for (i) social rented housing and (ii) intermediate housing in Peterborough constituency in (1) 2010-11, (2) 2011-12 and (3) 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [37232]

Grant Shapps: The Homes and Communities Agency has not given any new allocations through the National Affordable Housing Programme to either Axiom or Minster Housing Associations in 2010-11 for schemes being developed in Peterborough. Existing commitments for Axiom Housing Association schemes in Peterborough are forecast to spend a total of £993,000 in 2010-11, of these funds £955,500 is to deliver social rented homes and £37,500 is for affordable home ownership.

New allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13 will be made later in the year following the commencement of the new Affordable Homes Programme from April 2011.

HEALTH

Asthma: Drugs

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the potential savings to the public purse arising from the use of high dose corticosteroids for the treatment of asthma. [37312]

Paul Burstow: The Department has made no such assessment. The goal of asthma treatment is to control symptoms so that people with asthma can lead lives unconstrained by their asthma. Patients whose asthma is well-controlled have fewer exacerbations and fewer hospitalisations, which is better for patients and for the national health service.

Blood: Contamination

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to GPs and health professionals to assist them in dealing with victims of contaminated blood. [37031]

Anne Milton: The Department is informing general practitioner (GPs) and other health care professionals through its regular bulletins that if they have previously known a patient who had been infected with hepatitis C by national health service supplied blood or blood products and who died before 29 August 2003, they should contact the patient's representative(s) to advise them that they will be eligible to make a posthumous claim for an ex-gratia payment from the Skipton Fund.

There is generic information and advice about hepatitis C for GPs and other health care professionals on the NHS hepatitis C awareness website at:

www.nhs.uk/hepatitisc/hcp

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have also published guidance on the treatment of chronic hepatitis C. Generic guidance on the treatment of HIV has been published by the British HIV Association.

Cancer: Drugs

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding he plans to allocate to the Scottish Government from the Cancer Drugs Fund in 2010-11. [37516]

Mr Simon Burns: None. Health matters in Scotland are a matter for the Scottish Government, who make their own funding decisions.

Care UK: Prisoners

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the monetary value is of the contract given to Care UK for the treatment of prisoners; and what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the award of the contract with his Department's procedures and guidance on tendering. [36831]

Paul Burstow: We do not hold information centrally about local national health service contracts. Primary care trusts are responsible for their own contracting arrangements and decisions.

However, the Department expects commissioners to adhere to guidance on the procurement of health services published in July 2010[1], which aims to ensure that contracts for NHS-funded health services are awarded to the provider(s) that best meet the needs of patients and delivers best value for taxpayers.

[1] Procurement guide for commissioners of NHS-funded services, Department of Health, July 2010.

Darent Valley Hospital: Complaints

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints about Darent Valley Hospital were recorded in each quarter of the last four years. [36797]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the number of complaints received by national health service organisations is collected by the NHS Information Centre (IC) and the published data are available on the NHS IC's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/complaints

Diabetes: Rochdale

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding was allocated to Rochdale for the treatment of *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average amount of NHS funding per parliamentary constituency was for the treatment of (i) type 1 and (ii) type 2 diabetes in that period. [37199]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not allocate funding specifically for the treatment of type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes is a complex condition that can affect every part of the body, which means that it is difficult to calculate how much money has been allocated for the treatment of diabetes. It is for national health service organisations to determine the healthcare needs of their local populations and to allocate resources appropriately to meet those needs.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of young people in Rochdale suffering from undiagnosed *(a)* type-1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes. [37200]

Paul Burstow: The Department is unable to accurately estimate the number of young people with undiagnosed diabetes in Rochdale.

However, the Association of Public Health Observatories' diabetes prevalence model for England provides estimates of the number of people aged 16 years and older who have diabetes (diagnosed and undiagnosed). The model estimates that for Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust, in 2010 prevalence of diabetes (both type 1 and type 2, diagnosed and undiagnosed) was 8.2% of the population. The same model estimates prevalence of diabetes in England as 7.3%. It also estimates that there are 800,000 people with undiagnosed diabetes.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many young people in Rochdale have been diagnosed with *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes; and what the average number of young people diagnosed with (i) type 1 and (ii) type 2 diabetes is per parliamentary constituency. [37201]

Paul Burstow: This information is not collected centrally. However, the latest figures available from the National Diabetes Audit for the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust (PCT) indicate that 5,605 people had a diagnosis of diabetes. Of these, 44 were below the age of 16, of which the majority had type 1 diabetes, with the remainder having type 2 diabetes. 21 practices out of 38 within the PCT area participated in the 2008-09 audit.

End of Life Care

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received from hospitals on the route to success in end of life care paper published by his Department in June 2010. [37032]

Paul Burstow: "The route to success in end of life care—achieving quality in acute hospitals" was published by the National End of Life Care Programme. The national programme, which is based in the national health service, is a key implementation driver, spreading and facilitating good practice in end of life care.

The document was written at the request of clinicians and with the input of clinicians.

It recommends:

effective holistic assessment, advance care planning and rapid discharge arrangements to enable people to go home if they wish;

training in relevant tools, such as the Liverpool Care Pathway;

improved working together, training and support for staff; and

stronger board oversight and support.

We have received no representations on the document, although the Department has been informed by the national programme that it has been welcomed by those in the field.

Eyesight: Lighting

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects on people with sensitive eye conditions of introducing low energy light bulbs under the EU directive; and whether it has made an assessment of the number of people who may be affected. [37091]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) carried out a study on the emissions from commercially-available compact fluorescent light bulbs which included both visible light and ultraviolet (UV) emissions. The results have been published ("Optical Radiation Emissions from Compact Fluorescent Lamps" M Khazova and J B O'Hagan, Radiation Protection Dosimetry, 2008, 131(4):521-525; doi:10.1093/rpd/ncn234). This paper is available at:

http://rpd.oxfordjournals.org/content/131/4/521.full.pdf+html

The Department undertook a literature review on lighting and light sensitive and neurological conditions to inform Government discussions with the European Commission on non-directional lighting measures. The Department made the scientific references available to the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) for its "Opinion on Light Sensitivity" published on 23 September 2008, which is available at

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_019.pdf

The SCENIHR Opinion considered certain eye conditions along with other photosensitive and neurological conditions. SCENIHR observed that

> "due to the lack of relevant data, the number of all light sensitive patients in the European Union, who might be at risk from the increased levels of UV/blue light generated by compact fluorescent lamps is difficult to estimate. However, a preliminary rough estimation of the worst case scenario yields a number of around 250,000 individuals (around 0.05 per cent. of the population) in the EU."

Firm figures for the United Kingdom are not available, but the SCENIHR statistics would equate to around 30,000 to 40,000 people that might be affected in the UK. SCENIHR is currently updating its 2008 Opinion.

The Department is continuing to work with the HPA, patient groups, clinicians and the lighting industry to keep the health issues under review.

General Practitioners

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish responses to his proposals for GP consortia outlined in the Health White Paper. [36848]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's response to the consultation "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps" summarises the responses received to the consultation on the White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", and associated consultations, including "Commissioning for Patients". A list of organisations which responded to the consultation is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123342.pdf

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* pilot GP consortia and *(b)* evaluate the outcome of the pilots. [36849]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

The shadow NHS Commissioning Board will produce and publish an analysis of the findings of the pathfinder programme and set out the lessons learned that will be applied as consortia become formally established during 2012-13.

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for GP consortia his Department has received to date; and what criteria his Department is using to assess the merits of such proposals. [36850]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority (SHA). SHAs will approve any group of practices to become a pathfinder if they can demonstrate clinical leadership, local authority engagement, and an ability to contribute to the delivery of the local Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention agenda in their locality. They will need to be able to operate in the context of the existing service and financial plans in the health communities they are working in.

The 52 pathfinders announced in December 2010 are already operational and assuming increased commissioning responsibilities from their primary care trusts under existing legislation. A further 89 groups were announced on 17 January 2011.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he plans to put in place for the governance for GP commissioning bodies. [37062]

Mr Simon Burns: All consortiums will be required to have a constitution, which they will have to share with the NHS Commissioning Board as part of the establishment process. We are clear that consortiums should define their own governance processes within a broad framework set out in legislation. The constitution of a consortium will have to outline the process for making decisions, dealing with conflict of interest, and ensuring effective participation by all constituent practices. The Health and Social Care Bill will provide for the NHS Commissioning Board to issue guidance to consortiums on the form and content of their proposed constitution, drawing for example on the principles of good governance in public life.

In addition, all consortiums will also be required to have an accountable officer, who will play a key leadership role. Our legislative proposals give the accountable officer specific responsibilities for ensuring that a consortium complies with its financial duties, promotes continuous improvements in the quality of services it commissions and provides good value for money.

General Practitioners: Complaints

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for handling unresolved constituency complaints brought by hon. Members against GP consortia under his proposals for NHS reform. [37720]

Mr Simon Burns: If a complainant or their representative is not satisfied with the outcome of a complaint at local level, we envisage that, subject to parliamentary approval, the complainant will have the right to take their complaint to the Health Service Commissioner.

Heart Diseases: Finance

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS trusts provided funding for transcatheter aortic valve implantation in the latest period for which figures are available; [36938]

(2) how much funding was allocated by each individual NHS trust for transcatheter aortic valve implantation in 2009-10. [36939]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

HIV Infection: Children

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of children in the UK who have HIV/AIDS. [36884]

Anne Milton: There were 899 children living with diagnosed HIV infection and accessing HIV care in the United Kingdom in 2009, the latest year for which data are currently available.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of children in the UK who are living with parents who have HIV/AIDS. [36885]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency, which is responsible for national surveillance of HIV, advise that the information necessary to make such an estimate is not available.

Insulin: North West England

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the uptake of insulin pumps in the North West; and what steps he plans to take to increase the uptake of insulin pumps. [37198]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect information on the uptake of insulin pumps at a local level. However, NHS Diabetes and the NHS Information Centre for health and social care recently published the findings of an audit to assess the provision of insulin pump services across England. The insulin pump audit is available via the National Diabetes Information Service.

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines, along with international evidence, are clear on usage and benefits of these devices.

Dr Rowan Hillson, the National Clinical Director for diabetes is currently chairing a working group considering the steps that need to be taken to increase uptake of insulin pumps. The recently published NHS Operating Framework for 2011-12 also highlights the need to do more to make these devices available.

Intensive Care: North West

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many days intensive care beds in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* the North West were put under centralised gold control since 1 December 2010. [37022]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS North West commenced strategic health authority 'command and control' across the region on 17 December 2010. NHS North West remained in 'command and control' for 32 days, until 17 January 2011.

Mental Health Services: Children

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to collect data on *(a)* the number of people accessing child and adolescent mental health services and *(b)* the use of such services; [36844]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to collect information on the number of staff employed by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the NHS delivering child and adolescent mental health services after March 2011; for what reason he ended the Children's Services Mapping project; and if he will make a statement. [36845]

Paul Burstow: Following extensive consultation with experts and key stakeholders, the Department is developing a new secondary uses dataset covering child health, maternity and child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) as a key driver to achieving better outcomes of care for mothers, babies and children. The dataset will provide comparative, linked data that can be used to plan and commission services. The dataset will cover such things as referrals to CAMHS, encounters, care planning, interventions, in-patient stays and outcome measures.

The Department is consulting on its proposals to establish a new framework for developing the health care work force, including the CAMHS work force, and seeking views on the systems and processes that will be needed to support it.

Until now, data on the number of people accessing CAMHS, and the use of such services, have been collected as part of the Children's Services Mapping Project (CSM). The Department's contract with Durham University for this project expires on 31 March 2011. While the CSM project has done valuable work to develop new approaches to the gathering of information on child health and well-being, it no longer meets stakeholders' needs for robust and reliable benchmarking information that would inform service quality and value -for-money decisions in the current economic climate. The board of the Child and Maternal Health Observatory has concluded that the best course is to discontinue the service from the end of the current contract.

Mental Health: Armed Forces

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the effect of his proposed health reforms on members of the armed forces from *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Scotland receiving specialist medical treatment in the NHS in England as a result of injuries sustained in service. [36779]

Mr Simon Burns: The care of armed forces personnel receiving specialist medical treatment as a result of injuries sustained in service will not be directly affected by the reforms planned for the national health service in England.

The NHS reforms and future commissioning of services in relation to the health of the armed forces their families and veterans is high on the agenda of the Ministry of Defence (MOD)/United Kingdom Departments of Health Partnership Board. This board, which is co-chaired at a senior level by the Department of Health and the MOD has as board members representatives from the devolved Administrations. Through the work of the Partnership Board, the Department of Health, MOD and the devolved Administrations have agreed a protocol for seriously injured personnel. This protocol will ensure that those who are seriously injured as a result of their service in the armed forces are transitioned from MOD care to the NHS as smoothly as possible ensuring that ongoing health needs are appropriately met.

Mental Health: Women

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the provision of mental health services to women. [36787]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made. However, there is considerable evidence on the different rates of mental health problems in men and women, particularly on how differently men and women express their problems and their willingness to seek help from services. The Government's new mental health strategy which we will soon be publishing highlights a number of examples of different problems across the two sexes and outlines effective interventions.

Midwives: Manpower

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of midwives employed in the NHS *(a)* by December 2011 and *(b)* in each subsequent year up to and including December 2014. [37225]

Anne Milton: We are unable to provide this information at this moment. However, when the operating planning process is completed, plans and forecasts will be available. Strategic health authority plans will be signed off by 31 May 2011.

The Government are committed to training the numbers of midwives needed, subject to the birth rate, and is considering ways of helping improve midwife recruitment and retention.

The planned number of midwives in training in 2010-11 is 2,493—a record level. We expect there will be a sustained increase in the number of new midwives available to the service over the next few years. However, it is for local healthcare providers to decide how best to organise their work force to achieve better outcomes and value for money. Local managers and employers, while required to conform to national standards, must be free to manage their own maternity teams to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Macular Degeneration

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence provides to clinicians on the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. [36928]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not provided guidance to clinicians on the treatment of age-related macular degeneration.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued technology appraisal and interventional procedures guidance to the national health service on the treatment of age-related macular degeneration. NICE's guidance can be found on its website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/Topic/Eye

Neurology: Continuing Care

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has plans to review and simplify the decision support tool document for people suffering from end-stage neurological conditions who apply for continuing healthcare. [37025]

Paul Burstow: We have published a Fast Track Pathway Tool for assessing national health service funded continuing health care for patients with rapidly progressing conditions, which may be entering a terminal phase. This is a simplified version of the decision support tool, and can be used by an appropriate clinician with detailed knowledge of the patient's needs.

NHS: Negligence

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid out by the NHS in compensation for medical negligence claims in each of the last five years. [37063]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is in the following table. The information was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

Information on how much has been paid out in compensation for medical negligence claims in each of the last five years.

	Damages (£)
2009-10	556,670
2008-09	558,497
2007-08	463,831
2006-07	428,460

	Damages (£)
2005-06	409,278

Notes:
1. It is difficult to interpret the data in a meaningful way purely because the data relate to payments made. The values cannot be attributed to claims made in that year, claims settled in that year, nor incidents that occurred in a given year. Payments made may relate to claims or incidents that occurred many years previously, especially where the claims may be complex.
2. It should be noted that in all years figures include repayments from previous years: for example where a payment was made into court as a settlement offer in one financial year and then received this could be received back the following year if the final settlement figure was lower. Occasionally, therefore, these figures may be less than zero.
3. In order to protect the confidentiality of individual patients, the NHSLA has not given precise figures where the number of claims/potential claims received in a year was fewer than five or the amounts paid out were lower than £5,000.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on legal fees and costs in responding to medical compensation claims in each of the last five years. [37064]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on how much has been paid out in legal fees and costs in responding to medical compensation claims in each of the last five years is shown as follows:

	£
2009-10	230,321,000
2008-09	210,729,000
2007-08	169,494,000
2006-07	150,930,000
2005-06	151,030,000

Notes:
1. It is difficult to interpret the data in a meaningful way, purely because the data relate to payments made. The values cannot be attributed to claims made in that year, claims settled in that year, nor incidents that occurred in a given year. Payments made may relate to claims or incidents that occurred many years previously, especially where the claims may be complex.
2. In order to protect the confidentiality of individual patients, the NHSLA has not given precise figures where the number of claims/potential claims received in a year was fewer than five or the amounts paid out were lower than £5,000.
Source:
The data requested have been supplied by the National Health Service Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

NHS: North West England

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will estimate the level of occupancy of children's intensive care beds in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* the North West since 1 December 2010; [R] [37023]

(2) if he will estimate the number of cancellations of elective operations in *(a)* Greater Manchester and *(b)* the North West since 1 December 2010; and what the reasons for such cancellations were in each case. [37024]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is currently undertaking a review to determine the best approach to publication of management information which allows the national health service locally and the Department to gauge individual health economy operational problems. This review is expected to be completed shortly.

NHS: Scotland

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the effect of his proposed reform of the NHS in England on the NHS in Scotland. [36777]

Mr Simon Burns: The Secretary of State and his counterpart, Nicola Sturgeon MSP, have been in correspondence regarding the changes to the national health service in England and the provisions in the Health and Social Care Bill.

Officials from both Governments have worked together on the drafting of the Bill to make sure that arrangements for joint working are maintained and negative impacts on the NHS in Scotland avoided.

Mr David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether GPs in England will be permitted to commission services for patients in England from the NHS in Scotland under his proposed reform of the NHS. [36778]

Mr Simon Burns: Commissioners of national health service services will be free to commission from the best provider that meets the needs of their patients, as long as the provider is registered with the Care Quality Commission and licensed by Monitor where this would be required by law.

North East Strategic Health Authority: Redundancy

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 10 highest single payments are which have been made to an NHS employee in redundancy payment in trusts in the North East strategic health authority area in 2010-11. [37097]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held centrally.

Primary Care: Public Expenditure

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proposals for efficiency savings in the NHS his Department has received from primary care trusts since his appointment. [37030]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trusts have been working to design plans for improving the quality of services and making efficiency savings to be reinvested in front-line care.

In December the Department published the revised Operating Framework setting out the priorities for the national health service over the next financial year and setting out the expectations against which their performance will be managed.

Draft plans will be published in line with the timetable set out in the Operating Framework.

Rochdale Infirmary

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make a decision on the future of *(a)* the accident and emergency unit and *(b)* the maternity unit at Rochdale Infirmary. [37196]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the local national health service.

This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils who are best placed to determine the nature of their national health services locally. The Government have pledged that all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened tests that decisions on NHS service changes must meet.

They must focus on improving patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from GP commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence.

We have asked the local NHS to look at how schemes that are ongoing meet these new tests including those that impact on the Rochdale Infirmary, namely Healthy Futures.

We are clear that services should be driven by the need to improve patient outcomes. NHS North West board has agreed that the evidence provided for Healthy Futures has met the four tests and should therefore proceed.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with NHS executives in Rochdale on diabetic care at Rochdale Infirmary. [37197]

Paul Burstow: No recent discussions have taken place between the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale primary care trust and the Department or Ministers with regard to diabetic care at Rochdale Infirmary.

South London Healthcare NHS Trust

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical vacancies at South London Healthcare NHS Trust. [36803]

Mr Simon Burns: Figures on the numbers of medical and non-medical vacancies at South London Healthcare National Health Service Trust as at 31 March 2010 are provided in the following table.

Total and three month vacancy rates and numbers for all Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) doctors (excluding doctors in training and equivalents) and all non-medical staff at South London Healthcare NHS Trust

	Total vacancy rate (percentage)	Total vacancy (number)	3 month vacancy rate (percentage)	3 month vacancy (number)
All HCHS doctors (excluding doctors in training and equivalents)	4.3	17	0	0
All non-medical staff	0.8	40	0	0

Notes:
1. Data are from the Vacancies Survey 2010 as at 31 March.
2. A vacancy is defined as one which employers are actively trying to fill as at 31 March.
3. Total vacancy rates are total vacancies expressed as a percentage of total vacancies plus staff in post from the previous September medical and dental and non-medical work force censuses (full-time equivalent).
4. Three month vacancies are vacancies as at 31 March which trusts are actively trying to fill which had lasted for three months or more (full-time equivalents).
5. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post from the previous September medical and dental and non-medical workforce censuses (full-time equivalent).
6. Vacancy numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
7. Percentages are calculated on unrounded figures and are then rounded to one decimal place.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Vacancies Survey.
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Vacancies Survey.
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Steroid Drugs: Essex

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of each inhaled corticosteroid have been prescribed in South East Essex Primary Care Trust in each of the last five years. [37310]

Paul Burstow: Prescribing information broken down by primary care trust (PCT) is available only for the four most recent complete financial years. Information on inhaled corticosteroid items prescribed in the South East Essex PCT area is shown in the following table. The figures relate to items prescribed rather than units as the term unit can mean different things for different drugs and a unit of one drug may not be comparable with a unit of another due to variation in the formulations.

	Number of items prescribed (thousand)			
Name of items prescribed	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Beclometasone Dipropionate	32.8	31.3	30.3	30.7
Budesonide	16.8	17.7	20.2	22.1
Ciclesonide	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Fluticasone Propionate	38.0	42.1	45.3	48.6
Mometasone Furoate	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
All inhaled corticosteroids	87.8	91.3	96.0	101.6

Notes:
1. South East Essex PCT came into existence in October 2006 as an amalgamation of two existing PCTs, namely Southend-on-Sea PCT and Castle Point and Rochford PCT. Figures for financial year
2. 2006-07 are the sum of prescribing from all three PCTs combined.

Source:
NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Suicide

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 459W, on suicide prevention strategy, whether he expects his Department's suicide prevention strategy to be published before 30 April 2011; and what definition of spring his Department uses. [37497]

Paul Burstow: It is currently our intention to publish the suicide prevention strategy before 30 April. This Department does not use a precise definition of the seasons, but the months generally considered to be spring are March, April and May.

Tobacco

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to *(a)* publish his Department's Tobacco Control Plan and *(b)* announce his plans for implementation of point of sale display legislation and consultation on the introduction of plain packaging. [37567]

Anne Milton: As set out in November's White Paper "Healthy Lives, Healthy People", the Tobacco Control Plan is due to be published in the winter of 2010-11.

We want to make it easier for people to make healthy choices. The Tobacco Control Plan will set out details of what more we intend to do to protect children from taking up smoking and to help those trying to quit, including our plans for the display and plain packaging of tobacco.

Visual Impairment

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make the reduction of avoidable sight loss an indicator in the public health outcome framework. [37216]

Anne Milton: The Public Health White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', set out our intention to establish a public health outcomes framework. We are currently consulting on proposals for such an outcomes framework and ask within the consultation document 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People Transparency in Outcomes', a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, a question on the coverage of the proposed indicators. We are seeking views on which other indicators should be included for consideration within the list.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation—including the consideration of new or different indicators proposed by stakeholders—we will publish a final outcomes framework for public health in the summer of this year.

Wrightington Hospital

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet the right hon. Member for West Lancashire and clinicians to discuss the future of the Wrightington Hospital site. [37446]

Mr Simon Burns: This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils who are best placed to determine the nature of their national health services locally. The Government have pledged that all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened tests that decisions on NHS service changes must meet.

They must focus on improving patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from GP commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence.

Any proposals for significant change to services at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust will be expected to take these tests into account and be subject to full consultation with Members of Parliament, clinicians, patients, the public and other interested stakeholders.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Primary Elections

Jon Trickett: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of political parties on proposals for all-postal primaries; [36946]

(2) what consultation he has undertaken on proposals for all-postal primaries; [36947]

(3) when he plans to announce his proposals on all-postal primaries; [36949]

(4) what expressions of interest he has received in holding all postal-primaries; [36950]

(5) which civil service unit will be responsible for administering funds for the proposed all-postal primaries; and to which Minister it will report; [36951]

(6) how many seats held by each political party will receive funding for all-postal primaries under his proposals; [36998]

(7) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the proposed 200 all-postal primaries at the next general election; [36999]

(8) from which budget the proposed all-postal primaries will be funded; [37000]

(9) what discussions he has had on proposed all-postal primaries since his appointment; [37009]

(10) whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals in relation to all-postal primaries. [37010]

Mr Harper *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: The Government have not made a detailed assessment of the cost of funding the all-postal primaries, and no decisions have yet been taken on how funds would be allocated to political parties or administered.

I have not held discussions with representatives of political parties on this issue and have not undertaken any formal consultation on the proposal. To date, no expressions of interest have been received in holding all-postal primaries, although I have received correspondence and parliamentary questions requesting further information on the Government's proposals.

The Government have embarked on a major programme of constitutional reform, including the introduction of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies (PVSC) Bill, which provides for a referendum to be held on the voting system for the House of Commons and for a review of constituency boundaries in order to create fewer and more equally sized constituencies. The Government's proposals for a boundary review under the PVSC Bill—where the number of MPs will be reduced from 650 to 600—will have particular implications for all-postal primaries which we will need to consider. I would highlight the point made by the Boundary Commissions Secretaries when they appeared before the Political and Constitutional Reform Select Committee that all seats (with the exception of the constituencies of

Orkney and Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar) are likely to be affected by the boundary review. As a consequence, far fewer will meet the criteria set out in the coalition programme.

We will consider how best to take forward the proposal concerning all-postal primaries in light of these other significant changes impacting upon our electoral process.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy Saving Trust: Finance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the funding of the Energy Saving Trust was contributed by his Department and each devolved administration in 2009-10; and what he expects the figure to be for 2011-12. [36907]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) contributed 67% to the Energy Saving Trust's (EST) total turnover in 2009-10. This figure is based on information in EST's 2009-10 annual review.

DECC will grant fund EST to deliver comprehensive, high quality telephone and online advice to consumers in 2011-12. However, DECC has not yet finalised the grant funding level.

The devolved Administrations should be contacted directly for the proportion of funding they contribute to EST.

Energy Supply: Costs

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what estimate he has made of the average system cost in 2030 of electricity per kWh generated by *(a)* unabated coal-fired power stations, *(b)* unabated gas-fired power stations, *(c)* carbon capture and storage-equipped coal-fired power stations, *(d)* carbon capture and storage-equipped gas-fired power stations, *(e)* new-build nuclear power stations, *(f)* onshore wind turbines, *(g)* offshore wind turbines and *(h)* solar photovoltaics; [36987]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average system cost of electricity generation per kWh of *(a)* unabated coal-fired power stations, *(b)* unabated gas-fired power stations, *(c)* carbon capture and storage (CCS) equipped coal-fired power stations, *(d)* CCS-equipped gas-fired power stations, *(e)* new build nuclear power stations, *(f)* onshore wind turbines, *(g)* offshore wind turbines and *(h)* solar photovoltaics in 2020; [37047]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average system cost of electricity generation per kWh for *(a)* unabated coal-fired power stations, *(b)* unabated gas-fired power stations, *(c)* carbon capture and storage (CCS) equipped coal-fired power stations, *(d)* CCS-equipped gas-fired power stations, *(e)* new nuclear power stations, *(f)* onshore wind turbines, *(g)* offshore wind turbines and *(h)* solar photovoltaics. [37048]

Charles Hendry: Last year DECC commissioned Mott Macdonald to give a comprehensive update of the costs of power generation technologies, including how costs are likely to change over time. The costs in these report do not include "system costs". System costs relate to a specific generation mix rather than a specific generation technology. The Mott Macdonald report can be found through the following link:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

Key information is summarized on pages 67 to 70.

Energy: Housing

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the name is of each energy-efficient product and measure which is to be eligible for funding under the Green Deal. [37663]

Gregory Barker: The Government will set out in secondary legislation the criteria to determine the types of measures that will be eligible for Green Deal finance. These will be defined in consultation with industry and stakeholders in 2011.

A key element of the Green Deal finance arrangements is that only measures that can demonstrate payback through energy efficiency savings, which are equal to or greater than the installation costs, will qualify. The criteria will therefore be based on evidence related to the performance and cost effectiveness of measures, and are likely to specify that measures must be those which are fixed to the fabric of buildings.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the takeup of energy efficient glazing; and what steps it is taking to ensure glazing is a viable measure in the Green Deal. [37702]

Gregory Barker: The most energy efficient glazing is eligible for support through the current Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. In addition, the Government are taking forward the Energy Bill which will promote the uptake of energy efficiency measures through a Green Deal. The Green Deal will enable the installation of a range of energy efficiency products in buildings at no upfront cost.

The measures eligible for Green Deal finance will be based on criteria set out in secondary legislation, which will be formally consulted on later this year. Our initial assessments suggest that glazing may, in some cases, qualify for some level of finance.

Fuels: Prices

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to mitigate the adverse effects of regional variations in fuel prices on *(a)* economic activity and *(b)* social cohesion in rural areas. [37354]

Charles Hendry: The Government recognise the impact that high fuel costs in rural areas can have on the local economy and community, and are committed to investigating ways of ameliorating these effects. The Government are exploring the relationship between energy consumers in fuel poverty and those who are off the gas grid and opportunities for consumers in rural areas to benefit from carbon reduction and renewable energy initiatives. The Government have also announced its intention to introduce a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of 5p per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in the most remote rural areas.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has launched a market study into the supply of off-grid energy which is anticipated to cover competition and consumer issues for heating oil, liquid petroleum gas and renewables. The study will provide an independent assessment of the off-grid market and establish what further action may be necessary to ensure it works properly.

Natural Gas

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for test-drilling using the process of hydraulic fracturing for *(a)* shale-gas and *(b)* coal bed methane have been (i) submitted and (ii) approved; and what the location is of each. [36796]

Charles Hendry: The Department has received applications for, and given drilling consent to, two wells targeted on shale and eighty-four wells targeted on coalbed methane in the UK. The shale gas wells are located in Lancashire and the coalbed methane wells are located in the following regions: Cheshire, Clackmannanshire, Clwyd, Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Glamorgan, Humberside, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Lothian, Mid Glamorgan, Merseyside, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Yorkshire.

All drilling operations are subject to notification to the Health and Safety Executive. The environmental implications would be assessed on a site-specific basis by the relevant environmental agency (in England and Wales, the Environment Agency, and in Scotland, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) that regulates discharges to the environment as well being a statutory consultee in the planning process.

The Department does not retain information on the use of hydraulic fracturing, but this technique is standard for gas shale production and can also be employed in coalbed methane development.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will assess the proposals in the report on shale gas by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research. [37462]

Charles Hendry: The Department has been looking at the Tyndall Centre report. The Tyndall Centre report's key proposal is that shale gas extraction in the UK should be delayed until clear evidence of its safety can be presented, and that we should await for results of the US EPA investigation.

As I said in the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 942W, there is a robust regulatory regime in place, the technology is understood, and on the basis of available information, the Department sees no need for a moratorium on shale gas activities in the UK.

The UK's geology and regulation is different from the US. It should not be assumed that US experience will necessarily be equally relevant to UK conditions or to the UK regulatory framework.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has examined the *(a)* legislative and *(b)* regulatory framework relating to drilling for shale gas and coal bed methane; and if he will make a statement. [37474]

Charles Hendry: The UK has a robust regulatory regime to cover shale gas and coal bed methane activities. In the answer I gave on 24 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 67W, I set out the regulatory bodies and provisions in place relevant to these activities.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will examine the potential effects of the extraction of shale gas and coal bed methane in the UK on performance against the Government's objectives for *(a)* reducing carbon emissions, *(b)* energy security and *(c)* energy affordability. [37476]

Charles Hendry: Shale gas and coal bed methane have not yet been commercially proven on a large scale in the UK, so it is too early to examine any potential effects on the Government's objectives in relation to carbon emissions, energy security and energy affordability. However, we will be keeping this under review.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effects of shale gas and coal bed methane extraction on the development of low-carbon energy sources. [37477]

Charles Hendry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 941W.

Natural Gas: Prices

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what forecast he has made of the average wholesale price of natural gas in each of the next 20 years. [36984]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not produce forecasts for wholesale natural gas prices. However, for the purposes to inform government analysis of different policy options DECC does produce a set of fossil fuel price assumptions, including a set of price assumptions for spot wholesale natural gas prices.

The document "Communication of DECC Fossil Fuel Price Assumptions" sets out the current set of assumptions and can be found on DECC's website here:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/statistics/projections/file51365.pdf

DECC intends to review and publish a new set of assumptions in the near future.

Nuclear Power

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the information contained in his Department's Press Notice: 2011/007 of 24 January 2011 on liabilities for nuclear operators was not first released to Parliament through a written ministerial statement. [37439]

Charles Hendry: Not all consultations are announced through a written ministerial statement. However, I did inform the chairman of the Energy and Climate Change Committee and copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he took of proposals for the construction of new build nuclear power plants in other countries in each of the next 20 years in developing his proposals for nuclear plant construction. [37634]

Charles Hendry: It is for energy companies rather than Government to develop proposals for nuclear plant construction in the UK. The Government's role is to remove any unnecessary barriers to investment in new nuclear.

Although increasing demand for nuclear power plants could present challenges it is the project developers who are best placed to manage the supply chain and ensure that the necessary skills are available. I meet regularly with energy companies and they have not expressed any concern that proposals for new nuclear plant overseas will affect their plans for new nuclear in the UK.

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account he has taken in his proposals for new nuclear construction of international capacity in respect of *(a)* expertise in, *(b)* work force skills for and *(c)* available investment financing for the construction of new build nuclear power plants. [37635]

Charles Hendry: It is for energy companies rather than the Government to develop proposals for nuclear plant construction in the UK. To date, three consortiums have announced plans to build up to 16GW of new nuclear capacity in the UK by 2025. All three consortiums consist of companies which either already operate a nuclear power station somewhere in the world or operate an electricity generating station subject to appropriate health and safety and environmental regulation.

Government's role is to remove any unnecessary barriers to investment in new nuclear, in particular, delivering on the facilitative actions set out in the 2008 Nuclear White Paper. The Government are also working to provide the long-term certainty needed for clean energy projects, including nuclear, by reforming the electricity market and setting a floor for the carbon price.

In addition the Sector Skills Council (Cogent) together with the National Skills Academy for Nuclear are playing a leading role working with employers and the Government to ensure that the appropriate skills base is and will be in place to meet the requirements of the nuclear sector.

Although increasing demand for nuclear power plants globally could present challenges it is the project developers who are best placed to make decisions on the investment climate and the supply chain and skills capacity that exists. My officials and I meet regularly with potential nuclear developers to discuss these issues.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place on his Department's website a copy of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's parametric cost model used by his Department in its public consultation on an updated waste transfer pricing methodology for the disposal of higher activity waste from new nuclear power stations. [37492]

Charles Hendry: The NDA has developed its parametric cost model to generate updated estimates of the costs of geological disposal. It allows the key parameters that impact on the construction and operating costs of a geological disposal facility in the UK to be varied.

The way in which the parametric cost model is proposed to be used in the waste transfer pricing methodology is set out in the consultation published on 7 December 2010. More information on the model, and the data that have been derived from it for the purposes of the worked examples in the consultation, was set out in Annex A of the 'Consultation on a Methodology to Determine a Fixed Unit Price for Waste Disposal and Updated Cost Estimates for Nuclear Decommissioning, Waste Management and Waste Disposal', published in March 2010 and available on the Department's website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/nuc_waste_cost/nuc_waste_cost.aspx

The parametric cost model is a detailed model that has been designed as an internal tool to NDA and it is not suitable for publication.

Renewable Energy: Subsidies

Mr Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for future levels of subsidies for renewable energy. [36927]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to supporting an expansion in renewable energy deployment through cost-effective incentive mechanisms to help achieve delivery of the UK's renewable energy targets.

The renewables obligation (RO) is the Government's main financial incentive for renewable electricity. We commenced a scheduled review of the support bands in the RO in October 2010. This will determine the levels of support for large-scale electricity generation from 2013-17. In line with my announcement of 8 December 2010, we are accelerating the banding review so that generators and investors have certainty on support levels by autumn 2011, a year earlier than planned. We confirmed in the spending review that the level of support provided by the feed-in tariffs (FITs) will be reviewed with a view to reducing the scheme's projected costs in 2014-15 by at least £40 million (in nominal prices). Changes would be implemented at the first comprehensive review of FITs, which is expected to take effect from April 2012 unless higher than expected deployment triggers an early review. We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme, including RHI tariffs and technologies supported, shortly and to open the scheme for business in 2011.

On 16 December, DECC launched a consultation on electricity market reform (EMR). One of the key aims of the reform is to develop and deliver a new market framework that will enable the cost-effective delivery of secure supplies of low carbon energy into the future. The EMR is intended to provide further certainty, and reduce risk, to investors and generators over revenue, and deliver better value for money for consumers.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Paul Uppal: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is considering to address short-termism in the banking sector. [34780]

Mr Hoban: The Government are taking steps to reform the financial sector and address short-termism in a number of areas. First, robust capital and liquidity standards, a binding constraint on leverage, as agreed internationally at the November G20 in Seoul, will fundamentally improve the resilience of banks, place banks on a more sustainable footing and focus less on short-term gains.

The Government are also establishing a Financial Policy Committee (FPC) in the Bank of England to undertake macro-prudential regulation, and a new Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) to carry out micro-prudential regulation. These more specialised and focused regulatory authorities will help to tackle excessive lending and short-termism. In addition, from 1 January 2011 the Government have introduced a bank levy that is likely to raise £2.5 billion. The levy is intended to encourage banks to move to less risky and longer-term funding profiles.

Finally, the Government have also taken significant steps to improve corporate governance arrangements and strengthen the link between remuneration and performance. These measures improve the quality of internal oversight and strengthen the alignment of remuneration with risk taking, as well as improving transparency and facilitating better shareholder oversight, all of which will reduce the potential for short-termism.

The FSA have revised their Remuneration Code, and new rules came into force on 1 January 2011 that ensure bonuses are deferred over a number of years and are linked to the performance of the employee and their firm. In addition, significant portions of any bonus will be paid in shares or other securities. In addition, on 25 October 2010 the Government issued a paper calling for evidence on governance and short-termism. The paper considered whether there are failures in corporate governance and the markets. The aim was to investigate issues including: the problems of short-termism, investor engagement, directors' remuneration and the economic case for takeovers. The consultation period ended 14 January 2011.

Child Trust Fund

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child trust fund accounts were opened in the period from 1 April 2010 to 4 January 2011. [36775]

Mr Gauke: 624,000 child trust fund accounts were opened between 15 March 2010 and 15 December 2010. Figures are not available for the precise period requested by the right hon. Member.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37656]

Justine Greening: No central records are held relating to this and information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions between 7 and 11 May 2010 the then Chancellor of the Exchequer had discussions with *(a)* my right hon. Friend the Member for Tatton and *(b)* the right hon. Member for Twickenham; what was discussed; for what reasons the then Chancellor of the Exchequer initiated discussions with the right hon. Member for Twickenham; and if he will make a statement on the matter before the meeting of the European Committee at which the Financial Stabilisation Mechanism will be considered. [37125]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* All contact between the Treasury and the opposition parties followed the agreed Cabinet Office guidelines for the 2010 general election.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Ian Austin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received from the Citizens Advice Bureau on the ending of the Financial Inclusion Fund; and if he will make a statement; [36840]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Citizens Advice Bureau, *(b)* the Insolvency Helpline and *(c)* other organisations on the ending of the Financial Inclusion Fund. [37223]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials have contact with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such contacts.

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to establish a successor scheme to the Financial Inclusion Fund from 31 March 2011; and if he will make a statement. [37777]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Fund has always been due to close in March 2011. The Government have not yet taken a decision on the future of the projects currently funded from the Financial Inclusion Fund.

The Government remain committed to helping poorer households to access appropriate financial services, to improve their financial resilience and to avoid falling into unsustainable levels of debt.

Inheritance Tax

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the Exchequer of giving brothers and sisters who share the same property the same rights of exemption from inheritance tax as those provided to married couples. [37314]

Mr Gauke: Inheritance tax is not usually paid on transfers between spouses and civil partners. The cost of extending this to siblings who share the same property was estimated to be £1 million in 2008-09, based on the numbers of estates where siblings were living together at that time, but this does not include any behavioural effects such as siblings who might decide to share a property if there was an inheritance tax relief which could significantly increase the cost.

Married couples and registered civil partners also receive a transferable nil rate band that increases the available threshold on the death of the second partner. An estimate of the cost of extending this to siblings is not available.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Mr Hanson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many health in pregnancy grants were issued in the period from 1 April 2010 to 3 January 2011. [36774]

Mr Gauke: The exact information requested is unavailable. However, it is estimated that there are around 750,000 qualifying pregnancies for the health in pregnancy grant each year, based on National Statistics projections of births.

Public Expenditure

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department is making in implementing the spending reductions set out in the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [36911]

Danny Alexander: The Government are fully committed to delivering the spending plans set out in the 2010 spending review and Departments are working with their delivery bodies to implement the savings necessary to live within their budget settlements.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects on gender equality of his proposals for reform of public sector pensions. [36323]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* The Government launched the Independent Public Service Pension Commission chaired by Lord Hutton last June to conduct a fundamental structural review of public service pension provision which will report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer before Budget.

Ahead of the spending review Lord Hutton produced an interim report which found that the value of public service pensions had been increasing following dramatic increase in life expectancy at retirement. Current pensioners are expected to spend over 40% of their adult lives in retirement, compared to 30% for pensioners in the 1950s. Most of these extra costs have fallen to employers and taxpayers.

At the spending review, based on the clear rationale set out in Lord Hutton's interim report, the Government announced that they would implement progressive changes to the level of employee contributions to public service pensions that lead to an additional saving of £1.8 billion a year from 2014-15, to be phased in from 2012-13. This is equivalent to three percentage point increase on average. In taking this decision, the Government considered a range of factors including the impact on gender equality.

In addition, the Government announced their intention to launch consultations on the discount rate used to set contributions in unfunded public service pension schemes and the Fair Deal policy. Any assessment of the impact on gender equality will be undertaken in due course should there be any proposals to change policy.

Students: Loans

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Office for Budget Responsibility will take into account liabilities under the student loan scheme in its assessment of Government debt. [27296]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 25 January 2011:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility I have been asked to reply to your recent question.

The forecast for public sector net debt in the November Economic and fiscal outlook included the impact from higher student loans. Box 4.3 on p123 of the November Outlook provides further details of the assumptions underlying the projection for student loans.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct HM Revenue and Customs to disregard the period for severe winter weather over Christmas 2010 and new year 2010-11 in calculating the amount of time properties have been let when determining whether a property qualifies as a holiday cottage. [36800]

Mr Gauke: A property must be let for at least 70 days in the tax year to come within the furnished holiday letting rules for 2010-11. There are no plans to relax this requirement on account of the weather over Christmas 2010 and new year 2010-11.

The Government have proposed an increase in the required let period to 105 days in the tax year from April 2012. However, the Government have also proposed that a business that fails to satisfy the condition in one or two years would be able to elect to continue to qualify for treatment as furnished holiday lettings provided it satisfies the other requirements to do so.

VAT

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review his policy on the recovery of value added tax by charitable providers of social care and NHS services. [37616]

Mr Gauke: Charities can, and do, recover VAT subject to the normal VAT rules. They also benefit from a number of VAT zero rates and exemptions, in addition to many other tax reliefs.

The Government continue to look at ways of ensuring that VAT does not act as a barrier to the reform of public services where such options are open to us and affordable within agreed funding arrangements. For example, we are continuing to work closely with charities and other sectors to explore options for implementing the EU VAT exemption for cost sharing, and the recent announcement of a new VAT refund scheme for academy schools demonstrates the Government's willingness to create a level playing field for VAT where this can be done in a fair, targeted and affordable way.

However, a general VAT recovery scheme for all charities would not be affordable or well-targeted; nor would it be fair to reimburse those charities which are in competition with other service providers.

VAT: Public Houses

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on community pubs of the rise in the basic rate of value added tax. [36834]

Mr Gauke: No specific assessment has been made of the economic impact of the VAT rate increase on community pubs. The impact assessment published with the Budget in June 2010 provides information on the compliance costs to business overall of the VAT rate increase, but not at sector level.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the increase in the rate of value added tax on the construction industry in the North East. [37438]

Mr Gauke: No specific assessment has been made of the economic impact of the VAT rate increase on the construction industry in the North East. The impact assessment published with the Budget in June 2010 provides information on the compliance costs to businesses generally of the VAT rate increase.

Working Tax Credit

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of working tax credits who have household savings above £16,000. [36829]

Mr Gauke: No estimate has been made of the household savings of working tax credit recipients.

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recipients of working tax credits he expects to be affected by the £16,000 savings limit on universal credit; and if he will estimate the average annual sum such recipients will not receive as a consequence of the limit. [36830]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have committed to providing protection to ensure that households in receipt of the predecessor benefits will not experience a reduction in their income as a result of the introduction of universal credit.

CABINET OFFICE

Big Society Bank

Mr Offord: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent progress his Department has made on establishing the big society bank. [36643]

Mr Hurd: The Government have been making good progress with setting up the big society bank and are still on course to have some functions in place by April, then building towards a fully operational bank. It will be ready to make initial investments by early summer, which is when we expect the first dormant accounts money to become available.

Charities: Fraud

Mr Offord: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether fraudulent charity collections will form a part of his review of the Charities Act 2006. [37033]

Mr Hurd: I can assure my hon. Friend that the review of charity legislation later this year will include looking at the way charity collections are regulated with a view to making it easier for charities while protecting public confidence and deterring fraudulent collections and nuisance.

Citizenship: Young People

Michael Dugher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many places he expects to be available on the National Citizenship Pilot schemes for young people aged 16 years in Barnsley East constituency in 2011. [36099]

Mr Hurd: While it is not possible to state precisely the number of National Citizen Service scheme places available to young people in the Barnsley East constituency, I am pleased to confirm that the Football League Trust working with Barnsley Football Club will be providing 100 NCS places across Barnsley in summer 2011.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled; [35411]

(2) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010. [35461]

Mr Maude: Since May 2010, there have been no public appointments made to Cabinet Office non-departmental public bodies.

However, information on key public appointments made is published in individual press releases. These should include information on remuneration.

In addition, information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for the 2010-11 period will be published in due course.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37402]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Wokingham (Mr Redwood) on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 140W. The position in the Cabinet Office has not changed since then.

Government Departments: ICT

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much Government Departments budgeted for expenditure on IT in 2010-11; and what changes to forecast expenditure there have been as a result of his policy on IT procurement since May 2010. [35513]

Mr Maude: We do not collect total spend on IT.

However, we expect substantial savings to arise from IT procurement policies introduced by this Government, including the Moratorium on new spend which commenced in May 2010. Department accounts published at the year end will provide a fuller indication of the impact of these policies on department expenditure. But as an early indication of the size of savings accruing from the ICT Project Review process, Departments reported the curtailment of 229 projects to gross, compound value of £1 billion.

Government Departments: Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what single tender contracts the Government has awarded in the last 12 months. [36959]

Mr Maude: This information is not held centrally and cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Public sector contracts should normally be awarded following a fair and open competition in accordance with EU procurement directives. These directives do contain a number of derogations from the advertising requirements, including such circumstances as where there is only one provider able to supply the goods or services, the purchase of goods on commodity markets, extreme urgency, and a few circumstances where it has become necessary to procure additional services or goods from the same provider. Any use of those derogations has to be justified by the authority and applied strictly, with only exceptional departures from the normal advertising requirements.

In line with the Government's transparency commitments, all central Government Departments are now required to publish new contracts over £10,000, and associated tender documents, on 'Contracts Finder':

www.businesslink.gov.uk/contractsfinder/

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many candidates were considered for appointment to the secretariat of the Chilcott Inquiry; [36113]

(2) how many candidates were considered for the post of Secretary to the Chilcott Inquiry on the war with Iraq. [36116]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Secretary decided to nominate the Secretary to the Iraq Inquiry and agreed the appointment with the Chairman of the Inquiry. The Secretary will normally recruit the supporting team in consultation with the Chair of the Inquiry. This is a matter for the independent Inquiry.

Both the Cabinet Secretary and the Chairman of the Inquiry agreed that the Secretary to the Inquiry should be a senior individual in the civil service, ideally with relevant background and experience in foreign and defence policy issues. The Cabinet Secretary decided to nominate the Secretary to the Iraq Inquiry and agreed the appointment with the Chairman of the Inquiry. No other individuals were nominated.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether the Chilcott Inquiry on the war with Iraq has requested permission to publish any document relating to policy of *(a)* the Department of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, *(b)* the Ministry of Defence and *(c)* the Defence and Overseas Secretariat in the Cabinet Office which bears the name of the Secretary to the Inquiry and was prepared during her tenure as deputy head of the Defence and Overseas Secretariat; [36114]

(2) whether the Cabinet Office has received any requests from the Chilcott Inquiry to publish documentation relating to policy on Iraq in the *(a)* Foreign and Defence Secretariat and *(b)* Defence and Overseas Secretariat of the Cabinet Office during the period from November 2004 to July 2009. [36115]

Mr Maude: The protocol between the Iraq Inquiry and HMG regarding documents and other written and electronic information sets out the arrangements under which the Inquiry may request that the Government declassify documents for the Inquiry's public use and the grounds on which such requests may be refused.

Documents that the Government have declassified are available on the Inquiry's website. The majority of the Inquiry's declassification requests has been met. Where no agreement is reached about a form in which the information can be published, it would remain open to the Inquiry to refer in its report to the fact that material it would have wished to publish has been withheld from publication.

Pupils: Discipline

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's managed moves policy document. [36112]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office managed move policy has been placed in the House of Common's Library.

Regulation

Mel Stride: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he is taking to reduce levels of *(a)* regulation and *(b)* administrative requirements; and what assessment he has made of progress against his Department's objectives in this respect. [36257]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to reduce the levels of regulation. There have been several recent government-wide initiatives to reduce regulation, including the one-in one-out system introduced in September 2010 which requires policy makers to address and minimise the net cost to business and civil society. The Government also intend to publish a forward statement of regulation, providing an overview of the Government's regulatory plans up until June 2011.

Voluntary work is hampered by a thicket of bureaucracy that uses up time and money and causes frustration that can discourage volunteering. The Government are determined to cut this bureaucracy, which is why we have set up a Civil Society Red Tape Taskforce chaired by Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts. The taskforce is addressing the question "what can we do to cut red tape for small organisations?" The taskforce is looking at a range of issues that we know cause difficulties for charities including funding, licensing, employment law, and insurance and will report in the spring.

The Behavioural Insights Team in the Cabinet Office works with Departments to help develop policies that encourage positive behaviours, using insights from behavioural economics and behavioural science that do not require regulation or legislation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when he plans to answer question 36145, on a Civil Service register of interests, tabled on 20 January 2011 for named day answer on 25 January 2011. [37186]

Mr Maude: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 313-14W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 February 2011

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Electric Vehicles

Mr Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, representing the House of Commons Commission, if the House of Commons Commission will take steps to install recharging points for electric and hybrid vehicles in the House of Commons car park. [36821]

John Thurso: Two recharging points have recently been installed and are designed to recharge the latest version of the Toyota Prius (which will be used by the Government Car Service). As technology progresses the House authorities will keep this under review.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Art Works

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on artwork since May 2010. [37578]

Damian Green: There has been no money spent by the Department on artwork at Home Office Headquarters since May 2010.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what regulations her Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37374]

Damian Green: The following regulations have been removed since 6 May 2010:

The Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/228) were revoked by the Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) (No.2) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2226) on 1 October 2010.

The Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 1986 (S.I. 1986/416) and the Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/611) were revoked by the Misuse of Drugs (Licence Fees) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2497) on 15 November 2010.

The Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/778) were revoked by the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (No.2) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2807) on 22 November 2010.

The Immigration (Designation of Travel Bans) (Amendment) Order 2009 (S.I 2009/3044) was revoked by the Immigration (Designation of Travel Bans) (Amendment) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/2813) on 20 December 2010.

The Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/428), regulation 2 of the Private Security Industry Act 20[illegible] Regulations (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/2504) and the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2006 (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/2964) were revoked by the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Exemption) (Aviation Security) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/3018) on 14 January 2011.

The Identity Cards Act 2006 (Information and Code of Practice on Penalties) Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/2570) was revoked by the Identity Documents Act 2010 with effect from 21 January 2011.

Driving Offences

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists attended safer driving courses in lieu of receiving a three-point driving licence penalty in each of the last three years. [37708]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data that are collected centrally relating to motoring offences are published within chapters 3 and 4 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: "Police Power and Procedures". Copies are available from the Home Office website and the Library of the House.

Data on convictions for motoring offences are published within chapter 8 of the Ministry of Justice Bulletin: "Criminal Statistics".

Current and previous editions of both publications are available online and in the Library of the House.

Entry Clearances: Bangladesh

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were granted to citizens of Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [37585]

Damian Green: The number of student visas issued to nationals of Bangladesh in each year since 2005 is shown in the following table. Those issued after 31 March 2009 were issued under tier 4 of the points-based system.

Student visas issued to Nationals of Bangladesh

	Visas issued
2005	2961
2006	3375
2007	3444
2008	3314
2009	17303
2010[1]	6732

[1] January to September 2010 only.

These data are unpublished and are based on management information. They are provisional and subject to change.

The steep rise in visas issued in 2009 is evidence of serious abuse of the student entry route following the introduction of tier 4. The Government are determined to stop this abuse and is therefore currently conducting a major review of student visas.

Entry Clearances: Republic of Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what point of entry facilities are available for those entering the UK from abroad via the

Republic of Ireland who activate the residency permit in their passport granting temporary or permanent right of abode in the UK. [37746]

Damian Green: The Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and the UK form what is referred to as the common travel area (CTA). Under Section 1(3) of the Immigration Act 1971 arrival in and departure from the UK on a local journey from or to the CTA will not be subject to immigration control. There are therefore no routine UK immigration control facilities for persons arriving from the Republic of Ireland (or the rest of the CTA).

Under the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) Order 2000 the visa or entry clearance of a person arriving in the UK and presenting it for the first time has effect as leave to enter the UK, regardless of whether they are examined on arrival. Such a person arriving from the Republic of Ireland would benefit in the same way and would not need to do anything further to activate their leave.

A person with leave to enter or remain in the UK for a period greater than six months granted previously would benefit in a similar way, regardless of whether they are examined on arrival. They would not need to do anything further when entering from the Republic of Ireland.

A person with the right of abode is treated the same way as someone holding a British citizen passport. The UK Border Agency does not endorse the passports of British citizens or of dual nationals with the right of abode so such a person would also not need to do anything when entering from the Republic of Ireland.

Entry Clearances: Shipping

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seafarers holding documents issued by nations who have ratified International Labour Organisation Convention 185 were required to apply for entry clearance to the UK from ships at port in each of the last three years. [37609]

Damian Green: Most seafarers do not require entry clearance to enter the UK. Under Section 8(1) of the Immigration Act 1971 a person arriving as a member of the crew of a ship under engagement to leave the UK as a member of its crew may, subject to certain exceptions, enter without leave and remain until the departure of the ship. This applies regardless of whether the crew member holds a seafarer's identity issued under International Labour Organisation Convention 185 (ILO 185) or not.

We do not record, of those who are required to obtain leave on arrival or entry clearance from abroad, how many hold ILO 185 documents.

Forensic Science

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* financial viability and *(b)* compliance with Companies Act requirements of private sector suppliers of forensic science services. [37111]

James Brokenshire: The financial viability of forensic suppliers was assessed as part of the procurement for the National Forensic Framework Agreement and continues to be monitored as part of the contract management process of the National Forensic Framework. In the context of a wind-down of the Forensic Science Service (FSS), the appropriate due diligence will take place for any transfers of contracts and capacity from the Forensic Science Service.

Assessments of the financial position of companies in the forensics market are commercial in confidence.

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to establish contingency arrangements should private sector companies be unable to supply forensic science support required by police forces. [37112]

James Brokenshire: As we announced in a written ministerial statement on 14 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 94-96WS, the continued provision of forensic supply is a key priority.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet representatives of Migrant Helpline to discuss the Government's proposed new policy on combating human trafficking in order to develop a comprehensive approach. [37735]

Damian Green: Internal work has been progressing on the human trafficking strategy and we are now in the process of discussing it with non-governmental organisations, including Migrant Helpline.

The voluntary sector plays a key role in the provision of support to victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Licensed Premises: Alcoholic Drinks

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the conduct of test purchases of alcohol in drinking establishments by police forces. [37764]

James Brokenshire: The Government take very seriously the issue of selling alcohol to minors. In the coalition agreement the Government set out their intention to raise the maximum fine for selling alcohol to children to £20,000. This measure is currently being taken forward in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which is currently before the House.

Each police force takes the decision of how to best enforce the law on the selling of alcohol to minors. This often involves test purchase operations involving the police and/or trading standards officers. However, policy decisions in relation to the conduct of these operations are taken at a local level.

The Home Office published a document in November 2010 containing information about the range of tools and powers available to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder. Annex 5 of this document relates to test purchasing, and offers advice to people planning or conducting test purchase operations. However, this document seeks to offer information and guidance only, the operational decisions are taken at a local level.

http://www.alcoholdigitalresource.co.uk/

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drinking establishments that failed test purchases of alcohol in *(a)* Lincoln constituency, *(b)* Lincolnshire and *(c)* England and Wales were temporarily closed by the police in each of the last five years. [37763]

James Brokenshire: This information is not collected centrally. Information on licensed premises, including the number of premises that have their licences suspended or revoked, is available from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website at the following link. However, the information on the website does not state the reasons why premises had their licenses suspended or revoked.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/4865.aspx

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of test purchasing of alcohol in drinking establishments by police forces. [37765]

James Brokenshire: The Government take very seriously the issue of selling alcohol to minors. In the coalition agreement the Government set out their intention to raise the maximum fine for selling alcohol to children to £20,000. This measure is currently being taken forward in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which is currently before the House.

We have made no recent assessment of the effectiveness of test purchasing operations. Each police force is responsible for enforcing the law on underage sales, and each police force area will take a view on the effectiveness of test purchase operations when deciding how the law on underage sales will be enforced.

Karl McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the cost to the public purse of conducting test purchasing of alcohol in drinking establishments in *(a)* Lincoln constituency, *(b)* Lincolnshire and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [37766]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not estimated the cost to the public purse of conducting test purchase operations. Each police force area takes the decision as to how to enforce the law on the sale of alcohol to minors.

The costs of the test purchase operations will be considered by each police force area when this decision is made.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to Answer the letter sent to her by the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 20 December 2010, with regard to Elain Thornton. [37230]

Damian Green: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 27 January 2011.

Police: Noise

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints police forces received in respect of late-night noise in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005 and *(f)* 2006. [36201]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Tattooing: Children

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 822W, on prosecutions: tattooing, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of enforcement of legislation prohibiting the tattooing of children under the age of 16; and if she will make a statement. [37666]

James Brokenshire: No specific assessment has been carried out of the effectiveness of enforcement of this particular legislation, either by the police or the Crown Prosecution Service.

Individual offences under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 are classed as summary offences. Data for such offences under the Act cannot be separately identified on the Ministry of Justice Court proceedings database as they form part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be separately analysed.

It is not therefore possible to gauge the effectiveness of the enforcement of this legislation through the use of available statistical data.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she has allocated to the National Bee Unit to address recent trends in the bee population. [36073]

Mr Paice: In response to the challenges facing bees, in 2009 DEFRA allocated £2.3 million to the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) to implement the first two years of the 10-year Healthy Bees Plan in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and others. This work is aimed at protecting and improving the health of honey bees. DEFRA also allocates funding to the NBU to control statutory diseases and pests of honey bees, to monitor colony losses and to provide advice to enable beekeepers to become more self-reliant in combating disease through improved bee husbandry; this year's allocation was £1.3 million. Over the last two years, there has been a significant reduction in the number of colonies that have been lost compared to previous years and last year's losses were the lowest since 2001.

In addition, DEFRA has allocated £2.5 million over five years towards the £10 million Insect Pollinator Initiative which is also being funded by the Scottish Executive, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences

Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council and the Wellcome Trust. The initiative's purpose is to promote innovative research aimed at understanding and mitigating the biological and environmental factors that adversely affect insect pollinators, including bumble and honey bees.

Bees: Urban Areas

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of issuing guidance to local councils to encourage greater numbers of beekeepers in cities. [36071]

Mr Paice: We have no plans to issue specific guidance to local councils. However, the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) and its bee inspectors provide free advice and guidance to beekeepers including to those in cities. Further information is available on the NBU's BeeBase website. DEFRA and the NBU recently supported the London Bee summit, which was a City of London initiative to encourage beekeeping in the city, and would be pleased to support similar schemes elsewhere.

Departmental Regulations

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations her Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37377]

Mr Paice: The 45 regulations listed as follows were revoked in the period May 2010 to end of December 2010:

1. Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) Regulations 2006
2. Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2007
3. Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2007
4. Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
5. Plant Health (Import Inspection Fees) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
6. Ecodesign for Energy-Using Products Regulations 2007
7. Ecodesign for Energy-Using Products (Amendment) Regulations 2009
8. Beet Seed (England) Regulations 2002
9. Fodder Plant Seed (England) Regulations 2002
10. Cereal Seed (England) Regulations 2002
11. Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) Regulations 2002
12. Vegetable Seed (England) Regulations 2002
13. Seed (Registration, Licensing and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2002
14. Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003
15. Beet Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
16. Cereal Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
17. Fodder Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
18. Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
19. Vegetable Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
20. Seed (Registration, Licensing and Enforcement) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
21. Beet Seed (England.) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
22. Cereal Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
23. Fodder Plant (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
24. Oil and Fibre Plant Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
25. Vegetable Seed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
26. Seed (Registration, Licensing and Enforcement) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2005
27. Seed (England) (Amendments for Tests and Trials etc) Regulations 2006
28. Cereal Seed (England) and Fodder Plant (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2006
29. Seed (Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) Regulations 2007
30. Seed (Conservation Varieties Amendments) (England) Regulations 2009
31. The Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (England) Order 2009
32. Commons Registration (Publicity) Regulations 1966
33. Commons Registration (Objections and Maps) (Amendment) Regulations 1970 Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971
34. Commons Registration (Second Period References) Regulations 1973
35. Commons Registration (Objection and Maps) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007
36. Commons Registration (General) (Amendment) (England) (No 2) Regulations 2007
37. Commons Registration (General) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2007
38. The Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (England) Order 2010
39. The Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) Order 2007
40. Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) (Amendment) Order 2007
41. Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) (Amendment) Order 2009
42. The Veterinary Surgery (Epidural Anaesthesia) Order 1992
43. Veterinary Surgery (Rectal Ultrasound Scanning of Bovines) Order 2002
44. Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) (England) Regulations 2009
45. The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

Farmers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of farm workers in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [37257]

Mr Paice: The latest estimates of the number of farm workers in England as at June for each of the last three years are:

	Number of farm workers[1]
2008	134,000 (14,000)
2009	127,000 (10,000)
2010	123,000 (11,000)

Note:

These figures include farm managers, the numbers of which are indicated in brackets.

Source:

June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

Forestry Commission

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Forestry Commission sites in England are to be disposed of in each of the next four financial years. [37761]

Mr Paice: The Government have launched a consultation on a range of new ownership and management models for the public forest estate. This includes proposals such as the transfer of heritage forests to charitable organisations, and the option for communities to buy or lease forests which are important to them. This consultation will inform the future of the public forest estate.

The selection criteria for woodland in the Forestry Commission's 2011-12 asset sales programme have recently been agreed and published on the Forestry Commission's website. The Forestry Commission anticipates publishing details of the woodlands that will be selected for sale in 2011-12 by the end of February.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the creation of legal obligations on the maintenance of footpaths, tracks or public access to car parks on land leased or managed by the Forestry Commission which may be subject to sale during the comprehensive spending review period. [35478]

Mr Paice: The Government's policy is to protect the public benefits that are currently provided by the public forest estate. Our consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate sets out and invites views on our proposals for protecting. The case for creating legal obligations on the safeguarding of existing footpaths, tracks or public access to car parks will be considered as part of that consultation. For sales that are completed before the consultation is concluded, the protection of public benefits will be a key factor in both the criteria for site selection and there will be an opportunity for the voluntary sector or public bodies to identify areas of land in which they have a particular interest in order to safeguard or enhance public benefits.

UK Forestry Standard

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects the revised edition of the UK Forestry Standard and its associated environmental guidelines to be published. [37762]

Mr Paice: I expect the revised edition of the UK Forestry Standard to be published later this year. As the forestry standard is of UK-wide application and forestry policy is devolved, publication will be through agreement with the relevant Forestry Ministers.

JUSTICE

Appeals: Employment and Support Allowance

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of employment and support allowance appeals lodged in each quarter of the last two years were determined *(a)* within six weeks, *(b)* between six and 12 weeks, *(c)* between 12 and 18 weeks, *(d)* between 18 and 26 weeks and *(e)* more than 26 weeks after submission. [37667]

Mr Djanogly: The following table shows the time taken from the date of a disputed Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) decision for employment support allowance being lodged with DWP to the date of clearance by the Tribunals Service.

Time in weeks from date of ESA appeal lodgement to clearance by Tribunals Service

					Weeks
			Number of appeals		
	Less than 6	*6 to 12*	*12 to 18*	*18 to 26*	*Greater than 26*
2008-09					
Quarter 3[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Quarter 4	71	45	6	0	1
Total	71	45	6	0	1
2009-10					
Quarter 1	270	1,100	780	120	3
Quarter 2	370	3,300	4,200	3,000	270
Quarter 3	500	3,800	6,500	9,900	2,600
Quarter 4	360	2,700	6,300	12,600	11,600
Total	1,500	10,900	17,780	25,600	14,500
2010-11					
Quarter 1	310	3,500	5,300	9,300	17,000
Quarter 2	470	4,700	6,300	9,100	22,000
Total	780	8,200	11,600	18,400	39,000

[1] There are no data for quarter 3 of 2008-09 as ESA as a benefit came into existence in October 2008 and the appeals did not start to be received nationally until the last quarter of 2008-09.

The Tribunals Service's target is to issue a final decision for 75% of Social Security and Child Support appeals within 16 weeks of receipt from the DWP. Employment support allowance appeals take 9.2 weeks from the date of the original DWP decision to arrive at the Tribunals Service.

The Tribunal has received an unexpectedly high level of appeals, against employment support allowance decisions. In response, the Tribunals Service has significantly increased its capacity and, nationally, 47% more Social Security and Child Support appeals were cleared in September 2010 compared to September 2009.

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the Employment and Support Allowance Appeals Tribunal Service in each of last two years. [37669]

Mr Djanogly: Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced to replace incapacity benefit and income support from 27 October 2008. The Department for Work and Pensions forwards ESA appeals to the First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support. The Tribunal then aims to issue the final decision for 75% of appeals within 16 weeks. The time taken between appeals being lodged with DWP and being decided by the Tribunal means that 125 ESA appeals were decided during 2008-09. This increased to 70,500 during 2009-10.

The cost of ESA appeals calculated by multiplying the average cost of an individual First-tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support case by the number of appeals decided during each year was £35,000 in 2008-09 and £19.8 million in 2009-10.

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of applications for employment and support allowance made by residents of Chippenham constituency were rejected on the basis of the work capability assessment in each of the last two years; and in respect of what proportion of such applications that decision was *(a)* reversed and *(b)* upheld on appeal. [37671]

Mr Djanogly: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not hold the data on work capability assessments for the Chippenham constituency. Employment and support allowance (ESA) claims made within the hon. Member's constituency are dealt with by the Wiltshire unitary authority (UA). 32% of all new claims made within the Wiltshire UA from October 2008 to May 2010 were found fit to work by the end of October 2010.

The following table shows the decisions made by the first-tier tribunal—social security and child support on work capability assessment related ESA appeals registered at the Chippenham tribunal venue.

Outcomes—Chippenham tribunal venue

	Total cleared at hearing	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld*
2008-09					
Q3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total					
2009-10					
Q1	3	0	0.00	3	100.00
Q2	10	4	40.00	6	60.00
Q3	27	14	51.85	13	48.15
Q4	44	21	47.73	23	52.27
Total	84	39	46.43	45	53.57
2010-11					
Q1	110	57	51.82	53	48.18
Q2	55	19	34.55	36	65.45
Total	165	76	46.06	89	53.94

Note:
Data taken from Crystals Report 28 January 2011

Civil Law

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has conducted on the ability of individuals without legal or advice work expertise to conduct their own civil law cases; and if he will make a statement. [37633]

Mr Djanogly: The Department published research by Richard Moorhead and Mark Sefton of Cardiff university on this issue in 2005. This is available at:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/research/2005/res05fr.htm

The Department is also currently conducting a review of the existing research on litigants in person in connection with its proposals for the reform of legal aid. Findings will feed into the legal aid consultation response.

Courts: Travellers

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to reduce the time taken for consideration by the courts of applications relating to repeated incursions on the same piece of private land by Travellers, as has happened recently in Royds Lane, Leeds. [37109]

Mr Djanogly: We are not aware of any lengthy delays in cases relating to repeated incursions on private land by Travellers. The existing civil court process allows for a warrant of restitution to evict Travellers following wrongful re-entry on to the land to be made swiftly without the need for further notice to be served on Travellers. There are currently no plans to review the time taken to process applications of this nature.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department and its predecessors have employed in each year since 2000. [37652]

Mr Djanogly: The number of certified and chartered librarians employed by the Ministry of Justice and its predecessors is as follows:

	Chartered	*Certified*	*Total*
2011	12	0	12
2010	13	0	13
2009	14	0	14
2008	15	0	15
2007	14	0	14
2006	13	0	13
2005	11	0	11
2004	11	n/a	11
2003	10	n/a	10
2002	9	n/a	9
2001	8	n/a	8
2000	9	n/a	9

The details for certification are only available since 2005 when this qualification was introduced by the Chartered Institute for Library and Information Professionals.

Insurance

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of offences involving uninsured drivers of motor vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available. [37089]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates court, and found guilty at all courts for driving without insurance in England and Wales, for 2009 (latest available).

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of persons proceeded against at the magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for driving without insurance, England and Wales, 2009[1,2]

	Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
809/01	Road Traffic Act 1988 S.143(2)	Using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	156,055	131,309

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Armed Forces

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of *(a)* the prison population and *(b)* prisoners who have previously served in the armed forces have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder; [37336]

(2) what percentage of *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* the general population have served in the armed forces. [37337]

Mr Blunt: The diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems suffered by prisoners is carried out by medical professionals under the NHS prison mental health in-reach programme. Figures are not held centrally on prisoners who have been so diagnosed and who are receiving treatment in prison.

However, in the most recent survey of prisoner backgrounds published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in November 2010, 17% reported having been treated or counselled for a mental health or emotional problem in the year before custody. The results of this survey may be found in the House of Commons Libraries and at the following web link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/compendium-reoffending.htm

In September 2010, the MoJ and Ministry of Defence published the results of a joint study to estimate how many prisoners in England and Wales had been in the Regular Armed Forces. This showed that 3.5% of prisoners had previously served in the Regular Armed Forces. This report may be found in the House of Commons Libraries and at the following web link:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page-66&pubTvpe=3

In the winter of 2009, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published the results of a study to estimate the number of Armed Forces veterans in the general population of England. This showed that 9.1% of the population were veterans.

ONS Population Trends 138 may be found in the House of Commons Libraries and at the following web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6303

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria must be met for a prisoner to be allowed to be employed in the community as part of their rehabilitation strategy. [37384]

Mr Blunt: A prisoner will be employed in the community only under release on temporary licence (ROTL). Prisoners must be assessed as both eligible and suitable before ROTL is permitted. The criteria for each test are detailed in Prison Service Order 6300, which may be accessed via:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos/#

ROTL will not be granted unless the purpose of the leave is one that contributes directly to the prisoner's resettlement into the community or, exceptionally, it is required to enable them to deal responsibly with unexpected family and personal events. Leave for employment purposes falls under the resettlement heading and is reserved for the latter stages of the prisoner's time in custody. All prisoners released on ROTL must first pass a rigorous risk assessment taking into account the risks of harm, reoffending and absconding, and the impact of the particular release upon both the victim and public confidence in the administration of justice.

Prisons: Christmas

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure was incurred by his Department under each budget heading in connection with marking Christmas in prisons in each year since 1997. [37620]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service Agency's accounting system does not have an account code for expenditure on marking Christmas in prisons. Therefore no expenditure information is available centrally and it would be necessary to ask each prison to provide information from its local records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Supreme Court

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) who the members were of the Selection Commission for the Justices of the Supreme Court on each occasion when the Commission has been convened; [37498]

(2) what guidance he has issued under section 27(9) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005; and if he will publish the guidance he has given as to matters to be taken into account; [37499]

(3) if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* advertisement, *(b)* information pack for applicants and *(c)* selection criteria in respect of each occasion on which a position on the Supreme Court was advertised. [37525]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Since the Supreme Court came into being there have been two selection commissions convened under the Act. Prior to 1 October 2009, it was agreed by the Lord Chancellor that the selection commission procedure be used on a non-statutory basis.

In 2008-09, the commission convened to select replacements for Lord Hoffman, Lord Carswell and Lord Scott, all of whom retired as Lords of Appeal in Ordinary. The commission comprised: Lord Phillips and Lord Hoffman as Senior Law Lord and Second Senior Law Lord respectively; Baroness Prashar representing the Judicial Appointments Commission of England and Wales, Mr Justice Weatherup representing the Judicial Appointments Commission in Northern Ireland and Ms Elspeth MacArthur representing the Judicial Appointments Board in Scotland. Lord Justice Collins, Sir Brian Kerr and Lord Justice Clarke were appointed.

In 2009-10, the commission convened to recommend a replacement for Lord Neuberger, who was appointed as Master of the Rolls, as a Justice of the Supreme Court. The commission comprised: Lord Phillips and Lord Hope as President and Deputy President of the Court respectively; Baroness Prashar representing the Judicial Appointments Commission of England and Wales, Lady Smith representing the Judicial Appointments Board in Scotland; and Mrs Ruth Laird representing the Judicial Appointments Commission in Northern Ireland. Lord Justice Dyson was appointed.

In 2010-11 a commission was convened to replace Lord Saville who retired in October 2010 and Lord Collins who will retire in May 2011. The commission comprised: Lord Phillips and Lord Hope as President and Deputy President of the Court respectively; Professor Dame Hazel Genn representing the Judicial Appointments Commission in England and Wales; Sir Muir Russell representing the Judicial Appointment Board in Scotland and Lord Justice Coghlin representing the Judicial Appointments Commission in Northern Ireland. I have very recently received the commission's report and am about to undertake consultation in accordance with section 28(5) of the Constitutional Reform Act.

Under section 27(9) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the commission must have regard to any guidance given by the Lord Chancellor as to matters to be taken into account in making a selection. To date, this section of the Act has never been used and no guidance has ever been issued.

I am today placing copies of the advertisements, information packs for applicants and selection criteria in respect of each occasion the commission has been convened in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which *(a)* persons and *(b)* organisations were consulted by his Department on the selection process for Justices of the Supreme Court on each occasion on which an appointment was made. [37524]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Section 28 (5) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 sets out those whom the Lord Chancellor is required to consult following receipt of the report from the selection commission. No organisations are consulted. I list as follows the people who were consulted for each appointment made to the Supreme Court.

For the appointment of Lord Collins, Lord Clarke and Lord Kerr in 2009:

The Rt Hon The Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood

The Rt Hon The Lord Carswell

The Rt Hon The Lady Hale of Richmond

The Rt Hon The Lord Hope of Craighead

The Rt Hon The Lord Mance

The Rt Hon The Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury

The Rt Hon The Lord Rodger of Earlsferry

The Rt Hon The Lord Saville of Newdigate

The Rt Hon The Lord Scott of Foscote

The Rt Hon The Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe

The Rt Hon Lord Judge, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales

The Rt Hon Lord Hamilton, Lord President of the Court of Session

The Rt Hon Lord Gill, Lord Justice Clerk

The Rt Hon Sir Anthony May, President of the Queen's Bench Division

The Rt Hon Sir Mark Potter, President of the Family Division

The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Morritt, Chancellor of the High Court

The Rt Hon Sir Mark Waller, Vice-President of the Court of Appeal, Civil Division

The Rt Hon Lord Justice Higgins, member of the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister for Scotland

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister for Wales

Rt Hon Shaun Woodward MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

For the appointment of Lord Dyson in April 2010:

The Rt Hon The Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood

The Rt Hon Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony

The Rt Hon Lord Collins of Mapesbury

The Rt Hon The Lady Hale of Richmond

The Rt Hon Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore

The Rt Hon The Lord Mance

The Rt Hon The Lord Rodger of Earlsferry

The Rt Hon The Lord Saville of Newdigate

The Rt Hon The Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe

The Rt Hon Lord Judge, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales

The Rt Hon Sir Anthony May, President of the Queen's Bench Division

The Rt Hon Sir Mark Potter, President of the Family Division

The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Morritt, Chancellor of the High Court

The Rt Hon Lord Neuberger, Master of the Rolls

The Rt Hon Lord Hamilton, Lord President of the Court of Session

The Rt Hon Sir Declan Morgan, Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland

The Rt Hon Lord Gill, Lord Justice Clerk

Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP, First Minister for Scotland

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister for Wales

Rt Hon Shaun Woodward MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

For the appointment of the replacements for Lord Saville and Lord Collins, currently being undertaken:

The Rt Hon Lord Rodger of Earlsferry

The Rt Hon Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe

The Rt Hon Lady Hale of Richmond

The Rt Hon Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood

The Rt Hon Lord Mance

The Rt Hon Lord Collins of Mapesbury

The Rt Hon Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore

The Rt Hon Lord Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony

The Rt Hon Lord Dyson

The Rt Hon Lord Judge (Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales)

The Rt Hon Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury (Master of the Rolls)

The Rt Hon Lord Hamilton (The Lord President, Scotland)

The Rt Hon Sir Declan Morgan QC PC (Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland)

The Rt Hon Lord Gill (Lord Justice Clerk, Scotland)

The Rt Hon Sir Anthony May (President of the Queen's Bench Division)

The Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Wall (President of the Family Division)

The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Morritt (Chancellor of the High Court)

The Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM (First Minister, Wales)

The Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP (First Minister of Scotland)

TRANSPORT

Cycling

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage cycling as a means of commuting. [36836]

Norman Baker: On the 19 January the Government published a Local Transport White Paper, "Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon". This strategy encourages greater use of public transport and more active travel, including cycling.

The Government have announced a Local Sustainable Transport Fund of £560 million over four years for local authorities to bid for funding for sustainable travel packages, including measures to encourage cycling to work.

The Department has also launched an electronic cycle journey planner, available via Transport Direct. People who would like to cycle can choose the quietest, quickest or most recreational route between two points. This is currently live in 31 areas and near England-wide coverage is expected by the end of March 2011.

The DfT continues to support the Cycle to Work scheme through the provision of the Cycle to Work scheme implementation guidance and any further advice required by employers and employees via telephone and written correspondence.

In addition the Department funds the National Business Travel Network, which launched a 'ways2work' tool kit in November 2010 to help people and businesses work more efficiently. The tool kit includes a section on commuting and encouraging cycling and walking for work.

Electric Vehicles

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has plans to address range anxiety for owners of electric vehicles. [36909]

Norman Baker: A strategy setting out how the installation of charging infrastructure can be promoted across the UK is due to be published in the summer of 2011. This will include the role of infrastructure in addressing range anxiety.

To support and inform this strategy the Government have made available £30 million for infrastructure projects which will deliver over 8,500 charging points in eight places across the UK.

Electric Vehicles: Rural Areas

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has plans to install charging points for electric vehicles in rural areas. [36908]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State for Transport announced the outcome of the second round of Plugged-In Places funding on 14 December 2010. Five projects were successful—based in Northern Ireland, Central Scotland, Greater Manchester, the Midlands and the East of England. These supplement the three existing projects in London, Milton Keynes and the North East. The projects cover a wide range of different locations, from large cities to rural areas and a range of technologies.

The outcomes of these projects will inform the development of national policy regarding electric vehicle infrastructure, with a strategy for promoting the installation of charging infrastructure due to be published in June 2011.

Freight Facilities Grant Scheme

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he has allocated to the Freight Facilities Grant scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* each of the next three years. [36357]

Mike Penning: The information requested is as follows:

(a) £2.1 million was allocated to Freight Facility Grant infrastructure projects in 2010-11 before the scheme was suspended in England in July 2010.

(b) No funding has been allocated for the next three years. We have discontinued the scheme in England, as part of the measures necessary to reduce the deficit.

High Speed Trains: Property

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications have been made to the High Speed 2 Exceptional Hardship scheme; how many such applications have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* refused to date; what estimate he has made of the time taken from receiving an application to the applicant being informed of the decision; what the date was on which the least recent application not yet decided upon was received by his Department; and what the total amount of compensation is that has been committed under the scheme to date. [36006]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Exceptional Hardship scheme (EHS) has, as of 21 January, received 115 applications. 20 applications have been accepted so far and 65 applications have been rejected. The remaining 30 applications have not yet reached the decision stage in the EHS process.

For those applications where a decision has been made, it has taken on average around two months from receiving the application to inform the applicant of the decision, although this varies from application to application. Our aim is to give applicants a decision within three months wherever possible. The oldest application not yet decided on was received on 12 October.

The total committed spend under the scheme so far is £9,083,750. This is the cost of properties where a valuation has been obtained and agreed with the applicant. Applications that have been accepted under the EHS but where a formal valuation of the property has not yet been agreed are estimated at a further £13,800,000.

HM Coastguard

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of HM Coastguard; and what assessment he has made of its likely future effectiveness. [36414]

Mike Penning: HM Coastguard's operational effectiveness is monitored using a combination of measures, including training and qualifications, equipment, operational readiness and response times.

The effectiveness of the current arrangements can be affected by the limited ability to match resources to workload, as explained in the public consultation document 'Protecting our Seas and Shores in the 21st Century'. This document is available in the Libraries of the House and on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency website.

We believe that the proposed future structure would improve the effectiveness of rescue co-ordination activity by providing a fully networked national arrangement that would allow work to be better distributed.

In addition, the fully networked arrangements being proposed would improve the resilience of the system to disruption or discontinuity.

Leeds-Bradford Airport

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers used Leeds-Bradford airport in each of the last five years. [36456]

Mrs Villiers: The number of passengers that used Leeds-Bradford airport in each of the last five years for which published data are available is as follows:

	Passengers
2009	2,574,426
2008	2,873,321
2007	2,881,539
2006	2,792,686
2005	2,609,638

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority statistics

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of road fund licences were issued *(a)* by the Post Office and *(b)* in response to an online application in 2009. [37753]

Mike Penning: In 2009, 55% (23,554,102) of road fund licences were issued by the Post Office and 40% per cent (17,064,511) were issued online.

Road fund licences were also issued by DVLA Local Offices and through an electronic link with fleet operators. Local Offices issued 2% (1,051,638) and 3% (1,256,089) were issued electronically to fleet operators.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr Spencer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish his consultation on the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [36788]

Norman Baker: Amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel (RTFO) Order 2007 are being considered to implement both the transport elements of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and aspects of the closely related Fuel Quality Directive (FQD).

We have taken additional time to consider how best to implement the RED and FQD, and are working to transpose the Directives in the second half of this year, and to implement by the end of 2011. The Department will publish consultation documents shortly.

As part of the consultation exercise we intend to set out a timetable for implementation and will share this with stakeholders. The consultation will include implementation proposals on the detail of the sustainability criteria to be transposed into the RTFO.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times assistance from another state was requested for a search and rescue mission in each of the last five years; what asset was provided in each case; what the location of the incident was in each case; and on how many occasions the other state did not provide the assistance requested. [37268]

Mike Penning: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 29W.

The information is not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Road Works

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans to introduce a levy on deep trenching by utility companies. [35699]

Norman Baker: The Government have no current plans to do so.

Speed Limits: Fines

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists received *(a)* fixed penalty notices and *(b)* convictions in respect of offences connected with exceeding temporary speed limits on motorways in each of the last five years. [37705]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally. Motoring offences data are collected by police force area only, and cannot be broken down to specific roads.

Data on fixed penalty notices are published within chapter 3 of the Home Office Annual Statistical Bulletin: "Police Powers and Procedures". Data on convictions for motoring offences are published within chapter 8 of the Ministry of Justice Bulletin: "Criminal Statistics". Current and previous editions of both publications are available online and in the Library of the House.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists received *(a)* fixed penalty notices and *(b)* court convictions for offences of speeding on the M6 Toll in each of the last five years. [37707]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally. Motoring offences data are collected by police force area only, and cannot be broken down to specific roads.

Data on fixed penalty notices are published within chapter 3 of the Home Office Annual Statistical Bulletin: "Police Powers and Procedures". Data on convictions for motoring offences are published within chapter 8 of the Ministry of Justice Bulletin: "Criminal Statistics". Current and previous editions of both publications are available online and in the Library of the House.

Trust Ports

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to oppose any attempts by a trust port to amend powers available to him to require such a port to compulsorily transfer itself to a successor company for sale if there is a willing buyer. [36009]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State's power to privatise certain trust ports compulsorily is contained in the Ports Act 1991. Under the Harbours Act 1964, it is possible to disapply statutory provisions such as these from a port by means of a harbour revision order.

Under S.I. 2010 No. 674, most harbour revision orders from ports in England and Wales now fall to the Marine Management Organisation to determine within the procedures set out in the Harbours Act 1964 as amended by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and with regard to any relevant policy guidance from the Department for Transport. The Secretary of State will consider his position on any applications for harbour revision orders on their merits.

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to revise Schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 to make trust ports subject to the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. [37508]

Mike Penning: I do not believe the application of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 to trust ports is required.

The Department for Transport's guidance to the trust ports sector (Modernising Trust Ports, second edition) makes clear that trust ports should transact port business, in the interest of all stakeholders, openly and accountably.

I am satisfied that the guidance, which represents a code of good practice, provides clear direction to the sector as well as to stakeholders with a complaint against a trust port. If a complainant believes the response from a trust port is not reasonable in addressing the grounds of their concern, the matter should then be reported to the Department for Transport.

Tyres: Snow and Ice

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss with his German counterpart the potential for use in the UK of tyres used in winter conditions in Germany. [35247]

Mike Penning: The Secretary of State for Transport will be meeting his German counterpart soon, but is not planning to discuss the use of winter tyres in the UK.

Given typical UK winter weather and the cost of winter tyres (including cost of storage and changing tyres twice a year), it would not be appropriate to mandate their use in the UK.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Business Plans

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish of 30 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 661-62W, on business plans, what progress he has made in his consideration of the publication of an internal business plan for the *(a)* Crown Prosecution Service and *(b)* Serious Fraud Office. [37343]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) published a revised business plan for 2010-11 on its website on 6 January 2011. The plan sets out the CPS' priorities for the rest of 2010-11, including the work to be done to develop and publish a plan for the period to 2015. That plan will be published later this year.

The Serious Fraud Office expects to publish a business plan covering 2011-14 on its website shortly.

Crown Prosecution Service: Extradition

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Attorney-General what the cost to the Crown Prosecution Service was under each category of expenditure of responding to extradition requests in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008, *(d)* 2009 and *(e)* 2010. [37489]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not separately record information on expenditure relating to extradition cases. The information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

However, there is an Extradition Unit within the CPS Special Crime Division and it has been possible to identify expenditure incurred by the unit, broken down between administration and prosecution costs, since financial year 2007-08. This is shown in the following table:

	2007-08	2008-09	£ million 2009-10
Administration costs	0.666	0.879	0.976
Prosecution costs	0.823	1.243	0.774
Total	1.490	2.122	1.750

Administration costs include staff costs and general administrative expenditure for the Extradition Unit only. Prosecution costs also include witness expenses for the Extradition Unit.

Departmental Equality

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 234W, on public expenditure, what progress has been made by the Law Officers' Departments on undertaking equality impact assessments in respect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [37254]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service Areas and HQ Directorate are currently developing detailed plans to enable them to work to appropriate quality standards within the allocated budgets. The detailed plans will be completed by the end of March 2011, and the planning process will include the completion of full equality impact assessments (EIA). The other Law Officers' Departments are not currently producing any EIA specifically related to the impact of the comprehensive spending review.

Public Expenditure

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General under what budget headings expenditure reductions will be made by the *(a)* National Fraud Authority, *(b)* Serious Fraud Office and *(c)* Crown Prosecution Service following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [37358]

The Attorney-General: The National Fraud Authority will continue with measures that have been implemented in 2010-11 to reduce expenditure on corporate services, conferences, external recruitment, marketing and advertising.

The Serious Fraud Office will meet the requirements of the comprehensive spending review by making efficiency savings in all areas of its business, but especially on accommodation and corporate support areas, to ensure that the majority of its budget is focussed on investigating and prosecuting economic crime and supporting the victims of economic crime.

Following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will make expenditure reductions under the following budget headings: staff costs, accommodation costs, IT costs, prosecution costs and general administrative costs. These budget headings cover the totality of CPS expenditure.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Attorney-General whether he has made an assessment of the compliance of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review with the provisions set out in *(a)* equalities legislation and *(b)* the Human Rights Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [37359]

The Attorney-General: The Law Officers' Departments are public bodies required to ensure that their policies and practices comply with the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998.

If any significant changes to management, staff or business structures result from the comprehensive spending review these will be assessed against these provisions, and where appropriate Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken.

WALES

Remploy

11. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the future of Remploy factories in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [36729]

Mrs Gillan: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues including supporting disabled people in employment.

We are absolutely committed to supporting disabled people in work, including through Remploy. I appreciate the right hon. Lady's concerns for the factory in her constituency, in Aberdare, but I would reassure her that we confirmed as part of the spending review that the budget and status of Remploy Ltd remains unchanged.

Disability Living Allowance

12. **Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the effect on claimants in Wales of proposed changes to disability living allowance. [36730]

Mr David Jones: I have discussions with ministerial colleagues about a range of issues relevant to Wales. The time is right to reform disability living allowance. We need to create a new, more active and enabling benefit fitted to the needs of people in Wales and across Britain—a benefit fit for the 21st Century.

Comprehensive Spending Review

13. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate she has made of the number of public sector job losses in Wales attributable to the implementation of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [36731]

Mr David Jones: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newport West (Paul Flynn) today.

Localism Bill

14. **Stuart Andrew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implications for Wales of the provisions of the Localism Bill. [36732]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have had a number of discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implications for Wales of the provisions of the Localism Bill.

Ministerial Visits

15. **Mr Llwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when she next plans to make an official visit to Dwyfor Meirionnydd constituency. [36733]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have carried numerous official visits across Wales and will continue to do so over the coming months. Indeed a ministerial visit will soon take place in the hon. Gentleman's constituency, to see the Fibrespeed broadband project—the good work it is already doing and its potential for further extension.

Consultants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what payments her Department has made to consultants in relation to devolution since 1997. [36801]

Mr David Jones: None.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Females

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support women's participation in public life, conflict resolution and peace initiatives in Afghanistan in line with commitments set out in the Government's action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. [37790]

Alistair Burt: The UK's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 has a specific country action plan for Afghanistan which sets out implementation of UNSCR 1325 through defence, diplomatic and development activities.

Under these commitments, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office continues to provide political and financial support to programmes which promote women's participation in public life, including support to female parliamentarians and to women's civil society groups. We have provided support to the Afghan Independent Election Commission's (IEC) Gender Unit through the United Nations Development Programme 'Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow' (ELECT) project. We are promoting female involvement in the legal profession, which recently included a course in Helmand Province on criminal law and judicial ethics, attended by several women. We also continue to promote women's role in the peace and reintegration process, for example, through engaging with the female High Peace Council members and supporting a project to involve women in the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Plan.

Departmental Official Cars

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Ministerial cars his Department has used since May 2010. [36093]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs uses a Government car but full details of his transport arrangements are not published for security reasons. Since May 2010 other Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have used a combination of allocated and pool cars. From October 2010 only pool cars have been used. The new Ministerial Code, published on 21 May 2010, states that "the number of Ministers with allocated cars and drivers will be kept to a minimum, taking into account security and other relevant considerations. Other Ministers will be entitled to use cars from the Government Car Service Pool as needed." The Ministerial Code is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/ministerial-code

Kashmir

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed Kashmir with his US counterpart; and whether he has discussed Pakistan's request for US mediation in finding a resolution in Kashmir with his *(a)* Indian, *(b)* Pakistani *or (c)* US counterpart since his appointment. [37188]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly speaks to his US, Indian and Pakistani counterparts about regional issues including relations between India and Pakistan. He has not discussed the specific issue of US mediation over Kashmir. We recognise the importance of finding a lasting solution to the situation in Kashmir but it is not for the UK either to prescribe one or to urge others to mediate. It is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting resolution, one which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 476W, on Kashmir, whether he has identified any potential mediators to assist in resolving the situation in Kashmir. [37308]

Alistair Burt: In my response to the hon. Member of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, column 476W, I reiterated the long-standing position of the UK; that it is for Pakistan and India to find a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir, including the issue of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. We recognise the importance of finding a lasting solution but it is not for the UK to prescribe a solution nor to encourage third parties to mediate in finding one.

Personnel: Education

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of staff in the Diplomatic Service were *(a)* policy and *(b)* operational staff educated at (i) Oxford University, (ii) Cambridge University and (iii) public schools in each of the last four years for which figures are available. [36391]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold data centrally on the educational background of diplomatic service staff. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The FCO's recruitment policies are designed to encourage applications from the widest possible range of backgrounds. All external recruitment into the FCO is based on merit, and all campaigns must be fair and open. In addition, the FCO's internal promotion and progression schemes are firmly meritocratic, based on objective and consistent criteria against which all candidates are assessed.

Tunisia: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent violence in Tunisia; and if he will make a statement. [37325]

Alistair Burt: Following the recent events in Tunisia which led to the creation of an interim government of national unity we welcome the reforms it has so far undertaken, that is, the legalisation of the political opposition, the liberalisation of the media, the release of all political prisoners and the announcement of democratic elections later this year.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the new unity government in Tunisia. [37328]

Alistair Burt: We have been closely monitoring the situation in Tunisia in recent weeks, including the formation of an interim government of national unity. We welcome the reforms it has so far announced, that is, the legalisation of the political opposition, the liberalisation of the media, the release of all political prisoners and the announcement of democratic elections later this year. We also welcome the announcement of commissions to investigate the issues of corruption, human rights, and political reform. We are following the debate inside Tunisia about the composition of this Government but regard this issue primarily as a matter for the Tunisian people.

War Crimes: Kosovo Liberation Army

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on investigating claims of war crimes on the part of the Kosovo Liberation Army; and if he will make a statement. [36454]

Mr Lidington: The Government's policy is that all credible allegations of war crimes should be thoroughly investigated and prosecuted by the appropriate authorities if evidence warrants it. The UK has been a strong supporter of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and its investigations to date in relation to crimes allegedly committed by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). I welcome Kosovo Prime Minister Thaci's public call for the EU's Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) to carry out a full investigation into the most recent allegations against the KLA. I encourage all relevant organisations and individuals to respond without due delay to the EULEX request for evidence in regard to these serious accusations.

The UK remains a firm supporter of Kosovo and looks forward to working with the incoming Kosovo Government, once it is formed, in its efforts to make further progress towards fulfilling Kosovo's European perspective.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support women's participation in public life, conflict resolution and peace initiatives in Afghanistan in line with commitments set out in the Government's action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. [37791]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) leads on delivering key commitments of the UK Government's national action plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 for Afghanistan. DFID supports a number of programmes that enhance women's participation and influence in public life and contribute to conflict resolution and peace initiatives in Afghanistan.

For example, in 2009-10 we helped pay for the salaries of over 49,000 female teachers through the multi-donor Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. DFID is supporting WOMANKIND Worldwide to help strengthen civil society organisations in Afghanistan which promote women's civil, social, economic and political participation. DFID has also helped to establish four female Community Development Councils (comprising 150 women each) in Lashkar Gah, Helmand. These councils are enabling women to have a greater say in improving local infrastructure and public services and are also helping women take part in vocational training projects.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37647]

Mr Duncan: The number of certified and chartered librarians employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) in each year since 2000 is as follows.

	Number of certified librarians	*Number of chartered librarians*
2000	6	Nil
2001	4	Nil
2002	2	Nil
2003	3	Nil
2004	3	Nil
2005	2	Nil
2006	2	Nil
2007	2	Nil
2008	1	Nil
2009	2	Nil
2010	1	1

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37237]

Mr Duncan: During 2009-10 no money was spent centrally on Department for International Development (DFID) branded drinks coasters.

DFID works in over 40 countries worldwide and does not collate figures centrally of sufficient detail to identify expenditure on items such as drinks coasters. All country offices are required to seek central approval before spending any money on promotional items. No spending on drinks coasters has been approved since April 2009. This system of requiring approval for any expenditure on marketing will stay in place for the foreseeable future.

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37373]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not removed any regulations since 6 May 2010.

International Labour Organisation

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the last four years; and how much funding his Department plans to provide to the ILO in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [37631]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided a total of £17.05 million to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) over the past four years under a central partnership agreement. In addition, DFID funded ILO projects and programmes at country level. Financial information on these country-level programmes cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

DFID is reviewing funding to all multilateral agencies as part of the Multilateral Aid Review. A decision on funding for the ILO will be made when the review concludes at the end of February 2011.

United Nations Convention Against Corruption

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to receive the final pilot report of the UK's implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. [37792]

Mr Duncan: The Government have just agreed the final pilot review report with our reviewers from Austria and Greece. The report will be published shortly via the Department for International Development's (DFID's) website.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Alternative Vote: Referendums

Meg Munn: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward proposals to provide for a national recount of ballots in the proposed referendum on the alternative vote; and if he will make a statement. [37184]

Mr Harper: The Government do not intend to introduce provisions to enable a national recount of ballots. Permitting a national recount is not practical because the poll will be administered on a regional basis, with results certified by region.

Rule 43 of schedule 2 gives power to both Regional Counting Officers and the Chief Counting Officer to issue a direction for a recount of the votes to be conducted in only one specified circumstance—that is, where the officer requesting the recount has reason to doubt the accuracy of the count (rule 43(4)).

Rules 42(5) and 43(2) requires Counting Officers to provide either their Regional Counting Officer or the Chief Counting Officer with two statements: the first showing the number of rejected ballots, the second a statement of results setting out the total number of ballot papers counted and the number of votes cast in favour of each question. From these, the Officer will decide whether the result can be certified or a recount must be conducted.

The Regional Counting Officer's assessment is made on an individual basis and may only require a recount where the provisional statements provided to him by the Counting Officer suggest there has been a problem with the result in that area.

Philip Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff in his office have been engaged in developing policy on the proposed referendum on the alternative vote; and if he will make a statement. [37607]

Mr Harper: Policy on referendums rests with the Elections and Democracy Division in the Cabinet Office. A team of six officials within that Division is responsible for policy on referendums, political parties and party funding. Different members of the team have had involvement at various points in work on the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill that makes provision for the referendum on the voting system for the House of Commons. In addition, other officials within the Division working on the conduct of elections have been engaged on the Bill. Given the range of responsibilities within the relevant team and wider Division, it is not possible to quantify exactly how much time officials have spent developing policy for the voting systems referendum. In addition to the officials developing policy referendums, special advisers to the Deputy Prime Minister provide advice across the range of his responsibilities.

Philip Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much has been spent from the public purse on preparations for the proposed referendum on the alternative vote to date; what budget has been established for political strategy in relation to the referendum; and if he will make a statement. [37608]

Mr Harper: There is no additional expenditure on policy preparations for the proposed referendum on the voting system for UK parliamentary elections over and above the usual running costs of the Elections and Democracy Division and the costs of legal and parliamentary drafting resource. No specific budget has been allocated to the policy development of the referendum within that Division.

Preparations for the conduct of the poll are undertaken by the Electoral Commission, funded through the Speaker's Committee, and with local authorities who will be reimbursed from the Consolidated Fund as is standard practice for UK-wide elections.

The Deputy Prime Minister does not have a political strategy team or budget reserved for such a team. Special advisers to the Deputy Prime Minister provide advice across the range of his responsibilities and details of their salaries can be found at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Lords Lieutenant

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse was of each lord lieutenancy in England in 2009-10; and what the estimated such costs are for *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [37362]

Mr Harper: The lord lieutenancies of England are only partly funded by the public purse. The 11 metropolitan lieutenancies in England submit bids each year for a fixed amount of funding on the basis of an annual budget negotiated in advance between the Lieutenancy and the Cabinet Office. The 36 shire lieutenancies, however, are entitled to submit claims forms for certain costs to the Cabinet Office in order to be reimbursed for some of their duties.

Due to the voluntary nature of the role, the expenses system for lord lieutenant is not a public payment; it only serves to reimburse a small amount of the costs associated with performing the functions of the lord lieutenant. There are limits to the amounts which can be claimed for certain areas of expenditure, such as secretarial costs and car hire and driver costs.

The payments made in 2009-10 are shown in the table, with the metropolitan lieutenancies indicated. We do not have estimated costs for future claims. The specific role and functions performed by each lord lieutenant vary widely depending on the Lieutenancy itself, the geography (i.e. physical size), population density, number of royal visits, lieutenancy engagements and other factors, and simple comparisons between the figures claimed by different lieutenancies provide an inaccurate picture.

In addition to these figures attributable to each lieutenancy, a cost of £660.22 was incurred for the repair of lords lieutenants' uniforms in 2009-10.

County	*Totals 2009-10 (£)*
Bedfordshire	3,145.15
Berkshire	2,341.30
Bristol[1]	39,000.00
Buckinghamshire	6,053.25
Cambridgeshire	6,825.96
Cheshire	5,971.46
Cornwall	9,750.71
Cumbria	3,840.99
Derbyshire	7,582.68
Devon	17,003.33
Dorset[1]	50,574.00
Durham[1]	41,087.13
East Riding of Yorkshire[1]	37,729.00
East Sussex	6,690.24
Essex	3,882.95
Gloucestershire	14,475.92
Greater London[1]	142,126.00
Greater Manchester[1]	123,865.00
Hampshire	17,080.96
Herefordshire	7,163.47
Hertfordshire	6,338.90
Isle of Wight	13,917.42
Kent	11,769.30
Lancashire	8,820.77
Leicestershire	11,730.00
Lincolnshire	9,879.36
Merseyside	109,543.00
Norfolk[1]	2,093.87
North Yorkshire[1]	11,275.40
Northamptonshire	7,944.60
Northumberland	6,485.32
Nottinghamshire	3,844.60
Oxfordshire	8,672.14
Rutland	6,116.32
Shropshire	0.00
Somerset	3,860.93
South Yorkshire[1]	63,406.00
Staffordshire	12,830.30
Suffolk	3,729.15
Surrey	5,931.06
Tyne and Wear[1]	99,229.00
Warwickshire	2,510.80
West Midlands[1]	129,910.00
West Sussex	5,469.84
West Yorkshire[1]	110,447.00
Wiltshire	5,705.38
Worcestershire	4,626.22
Total	1,212,276.18

[1] Metropolitan lieutenancies.

CABINET OFFICE

Cancer

Mr Crausby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in each of the last 10 years; [37250]

(2) how many women were diagnosed with *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* ovarian cancer in each of the last 10 years. [37251]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions.

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2008. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of (a) female breast cancer, (b) ovarian cancer and (c) prostate cancer, in England, in each year from 1999 to 2008.

The latest national and regional statistics on cancer incidence published by ONS are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=3&ColRank=1&Rank=160

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of female breast cancer,[1] ovarian cancer and prostate cancer,[2] England, 1999 to 2008[3]

			Registrations
	Breast	Ovarian	Prostate
1999	35,511	5,650	22,387
2000	34,843	5,637	24,593
2001	35,606	5,936	28,015
2002	35,434	5,746	28,246
2003	37,646	5,796	28,503
2004	37,915	5,565	30,975
2005	38,859	5,628	30,053
2006	38,909	5,609	31,476
2007	38,596	5,548	31,236
2008	39,681	5,092	30,893

[1] Around 99% of breast cancers cases are in women.

[2] Cancer diagnoses were defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C50 (breast cancer), C56 (ovarian cancer) and C61 (prostate cancer).

[3] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Economic Situation: Derby

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the gross value added was of the economy of the City of Derby was in each of the last 10 years. [37300]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for the gross value added (GVA) of the City of Derby for each of the last ten years (37300).

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA for Derby Unitary Authority up to 2008. Data for 2009 will be published in December 2011.

The most recent estimates of GVA for Derby are:

	Total gross value added (£ million)
1999	3,900
2000	4,119
2001	4,335
2002	4,475
2003	4,629
2004	4,787
2005	4,962
2006	5,203
2007	5,436
2008	5,494

Source:
Table 3.1, Regional GVA, ONS, available on the National Statistics website at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/GVA_NUTS3.xls

Hospitals: Mortality Rates

Ian Lavery: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* mortality rate in hospitals in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and *(b)* the average mortality rate in hospitals in England was in each of the last three years. [36689]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) mortality rate in hospitals in the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and (b) the average mortality rate in hospitals in England was in each of the last three years. (36689)

It is not possible to provide mortality rates for hospitals within an NHS Trust as the information collected at death registration does not distinguish between the organisations managerially responsible for the patient's care. Although the name and address of the hospital where the death occurred is recorded at registration the services provide at a single hospital site may be managed by several NHS Trusts or private contractors.

Further it is not possible for ONS to calculate mortality rates for patients within individual hospitals or groups of hospitals, as there are no readily available data for the denominator populations.

Politics and Government: Public Participation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of trends in the public's involvement in the political process in the last 30 years. [35804]

Mr Harper: The Government, in partnership with the House of Commons, co-fund the Hansard Society's annual Audit of Political Engagement. The Seventh Audit found a mixed picture; for example, public participation in fundraising and voluntary work is on the rise. 27% of the public report helping with a fundraising drive, an increase of 7% since the previous year's Audit.

However, the Audit showed that the MPs' expenses scandal had affected the public's satisfaction with and perception of MPs and the Westminster Parliament. There had also been a big decline since the first Audit in 2004 in the perceived impact of the Westminster Parliament on people's lives, compared to other institutions.

Many of the issues raised in the Audit are the subject of the Government's programme of political and constitutional reform.

Solvents: Misuse

Mark Tami: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many fatalities resulting from the misuse of solvents there were among people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* 18 to 34, *(c)* 35 to 49 and *(d)* 50 or more years old in each of the last five years. [38073]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many fatalities resulting from the misuse of solvents there were among people aged (a) under 18, (b) 18 to 34, (c) 35 to 49 and (d) 50 or more years old in each of the last five years. (38073)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning and a volatile substance was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate for persons aged (a) under 18, (b) 18 to 34, (c) 35 to 49 and (d) 50 years or over, in England and Wales, from 2005 to 2009 (the latest year available).

ONS reports annually on deaths relating to drug poisoning in England and Wales. For each death, every substance noted on the death certificate or mentioned by the coroner is recorded. It is important to note that the figures presented are not the total number of deaths involving volatile substances as (i) the underlying cause must be within the ONS definition of drug poisoning and (ii) the volatile substance may not be recorded by the coroner on the death certificate.

As volatile substance abuse is known to be under-reported in official statistics based on death registration data, a project called the 'National Programme for Substance Abuse Deaths' (NPSAD) is funded by the Department of Health to measure trends in UK deaths associated with abuse of volatile substances, including solvents. The latest report from NPSAD on deaths associated with the abuse of volatile substances is available at:

www.vsareport.org

Table 1. Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate, by age group, England and Wales, 2005 to 2009[1,2,3]

				Deaths (persons)
Year	*Under 18*	*18-34*	*35-49*	*50 and over*
2005	9	12	3	4
2006	1	13	5	1
2007	3	11	7	2
2008	1	14	11	4
2009	4	17	9	10

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the following box) and where a volatile substance was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

ICD-10	*Description*
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Copyright: Internet

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects Ofcom to publish its code of practice on reductions in online infringement of copyright. [37714]

Mr Jeremy Hunt *[holding answer 1 February 2011]:* Publication of the code of practice on reductions in online infringement of copyright is a matter for Ofcom. Under the Digital Economy Act the deadline for the code to come into force has been extended to 31 March 2011.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37651]

John Penrose: At present the Department does not systematically store this information, although recent IT upgrades should enable us to do so in the future. Currently there is no requirement to hold information relating to staff qualifications or expertise on their personal files unless the member of staff has been recruited into a specialist position. Some staff files will contain this information, but to extract the information manually would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37246]

John Penrose: Nil.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the preparedness of households in the London borough of Bexley for digital switchover. [37465]

Mr Vaizey: The Government do not collect statistics based on local authority areas. According to Digital UK, by November 2010, 81% of households in the London ITV region had converted their primary sets to digital television, and 79% are aware of switchover.

Switchover will happen in London in 2012. Digital UK is responsible for informing viewers about this, including sending information leaflets to every home, advertising, roadshows and onscreen captions broadcast to analogue homes during the six months before a switchover.

The Digital Switchover Help Scheme offers those aged 75 or over, disabled, registered blind or partially sighted, and anyone who is normally resident in a care home practical help to make the switch to digital television.

Holiday Accommodation

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what discussions he has had with representatives of consumer organisations on proposed changes to quality assurance assessments of holiday accommodation under the Development of Tourism Act 1969; [37082]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the future development and assessment of sustainable tourism initiatives following proposed changes to quality assessment schemes operated under the Development of Tourism Act 1969; [37083]

(3) what procedures he envisages to protect the interest of persons with disabilities in securing access to accurate information on the recording and assessment of amenities and adaptations to holiday accommodation designed to facilitate use by disabled people following the proposed changes to quality assessment conducted under the Development of Tourism Act 1969; and if he will make a statement. [37087]

John Penrose: The Development of Tourism Act 1969 established the British Tourism Authority and Tourist Boards for England, Scotland and Wales with the responsibility for promoting the development of tourism to and within Great Britain. The quality assessment schemes help VisitEngland to meet these responsibilities but their provision or promotion is not a statutory duty.

In developing a tourism strategy, we are considering the need for a better balance between star-rating schemes and customer feedback websites, so customers can make a better and more informed choice. We are not considering abolishing the schemes, but rather passing them over to be run by the industry itself instead.

Whatever decision is taken on rating schemes, VisitEngland will continue to support, identify and share advice with English tourism firms and destinations on sustainability and accessibility. There is already a wealth of information on VisitEngland's website to help businesses develop a sustainability programme and to provide detailed information for disabled tourists.

Tourism is a devolved matter. The operation of quality assessment schemes in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Government.

Holidays

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will estimate how many UK citizens have taken a holiday within the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [36915]

John Penrose: The following table shows the total number of domestic overnight trips made in the UK by UK residents between 2006 and 2009.

				Trips (million)
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Base: All UK trips	126.29	123.46	117.71	126.01
Pure holidays (not including visiting friends and family)	53.26	53.72	51.96	60.66
All holidays (including visiting friends and family)	79.21	76.83	75.43	84.32

VisitEngland has advised that the survey analyses data on trips rather than people. The latest full year data available are for 2009, and due to a methodology change midway through 2005, VisitEngland can supply data only for the years provided in the table.

Horserace Betting Levy Board

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) if he will commission an independent assessment and external audit of the methodology and assumptions of the submission of Government-appointed members of the Horserace Betting Levy Board; [37604]

(2) what evidence-based assessment the Government-appointed members of the Horserace Betting Levy Board have made of the financial needs of the horse racing industry. [37605]

Hugh Robertson: I have no such plans. In their report to me of 30 November 2010, the members of the Horserace Betting Levy Board set out the basis of their assessment of the financial needs of the horse racing industry.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36978]

John Penrose: The Department is currently considering how best to reform the regulation of entertainment under the Licensing Act 2003 while ensuring that adequate protection is in place in relation to public safety and the other licensing objectives. The Department also has responsibility for safety at sports grounds and, while we have no plans to change the regulatory regime, we have sought views from football authorities about the current policy for all-seater stadia in the top two divisions in England and Wales. In addition, officials are working with the Health and Safety Executive on the Government's plans to reform the way in which adventure activity providers are regulated.

Libraries: Postgraduate Education

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess the career prospects of students completing *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate courses in librarianship in each of the next five years. [37638]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not hold statistics about the number of students graduating or predicted to graduate from librarianship courses each year or whether they are recruited into public libraries, academic libraries, business or civil sector libraries, or other industries.

Music: Licensing

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many live music licences were issued to premises with a capacity of under *(a)* 100 persons and *(b)* 200 persons in (i) England, (ii) Yorkshire and (iii) Leeds in each year since 2005. [37572]

John Penrose: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not collate data specifically on premises licence applications for the provision of live music, and does not collate data by premises size. This is because the Licensing Act 2003 defines activities, not premises type.

Tourism

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what proportion of the tourism marketing fund announced in August 2010 will be spent in East Anglia; [37118]

(2) whether people working in the tourism industry in East Anglia will have input into the use of the tourism marketing fund announced in August 2010. [37119]

John Penrose: The fund, referred to by the Prime Minister in August 2010, will be used to support an overseas tourism marketing and public relations campaign to promote Britain, taking advantage of the unique opportunities afforded by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and other major events, such as Her Majesty's diamond jubilee. Expenditure will therefore primarily take place abroad. Tourism businesses in all parts of the United Kingdom, including East Anglia, will benefit from the 1 million additional overseas visitors per year that we expect the campaign to attract. The campaign will be co-ordinated by VisitBritain in co-operation with private sector partners who have contributed to the fund. Any of those partners operating in East Anglia will have input into its content and, of course, concerned local members of Parliament can also make representations about their constituencies to officials or to me in the usual way.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards achieving revised common standards of quality assurance by the national tourist boards and the AA; [37637]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of participation in the programme to achieve revised common standards of quality assurance by the national tourist boards and the AA to date. [37643]

John Penrose: The tourist boards and the Automobile Association are in regular dialogue regarding the revised common standards in the major accommodation sectors (serviced accommodation and self-catering). They plan to introduce the revised standards later this year, with the support of industry.

There will be no additional costs required to achieve revised common standards of quality assurance. Any changes to the standards are based on both consumer and industry research, and businesses are given up to two years lead-in time to make any changes which may result from the introduction of revised standards.

Tourism is a devolved matter. The operation of quality assessment schemes in Scotland is a matter for the Scottish Government.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will assess whether there has been a change in the economic state of the tourism industry in *(a)* seaside towns and *(b)* cities since May 2010. [36917]

John Penrose: The Department, in conjunction with VisitEngland, regularly assess the economic impact of tourism.

Based on the most recent data available, and as shown in the table, domestic tourism expenditure in seaside towns from May 2010 to September 2010 saw an overall decrease compared with the corresponding months in 2009. Similarly, domestic tourism expenditure in large towns and cities saw a decrease for four of the corresponding months in 2009; however there were increases for August and September.

Percentage

	2010					
	May	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*
Seaside	-17.3	-18.8	-14.9	-17.5	-1.1	9.7
Large city/ large town	-5.5	-24.4	-8.4	2.5	18.4	-3.4

2009 was of course a particularly strong year for domestic tourism, and both 2010 and 2009 represent significant improvements on performance in previous years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37664]

Mr Paterson: We have not employed any certified or chartered librarians during this period.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Regulations

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what regulations his Department has introduced since 6 May 2010. [37365]

David Mundell: Since 6 May 2010 the Secretary of State for Scotland has made or introduced the following regulations:

The Scottish Parliament (Constituencies & Regions) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2691)

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2010 (SI 2010/2999)

The Management of Offenders etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (Disclosure of Information) Order 2010

The Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2010

The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010

The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37371]

David Mundell: Since 6 May 2010 the Secretary of State for Scotland has by order revoked the following regulations:

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2007;

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) (Amendment) Order 2007;

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) (Amendment) Order 2008;

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) (Amendment) Order 2009;

Paragraphs 15 and 44 of Schedule 4 to the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments and Practitioner Psychologists) Order 2009

The Scottish Parliament (Disqualification) Order 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Conferences

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* date was of the Audit Commission's internal communications conference hosted at the Thistle Hotel Marble Arch, paid for in August 2010; and what the total cost of the conference was to the public purse. [37535]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 2 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

This was a non refundable deposit for a scheduled meeting of the Audit Commission's top 60 managers on 22 September 2010. An external venue was booked as the Commission does not have an internal meeting room that can hold this number of people.

In light of the coalition government's requirement for public bodies to make efficiencies the Commission decided to cancel this event, as additional costs would have been incurred.

The deposit of £1,194.89 was the only money spent on this event.

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the expenditure of £138,824 by the Audit Commission in July 2010 on a conference at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole. [37537]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 2 February 2011:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

This was an initial non refundable payment for the Commission's annual two-day managers' conference, which was due to take place on 30 November and 1 December 2010. The event was for 400 managers.

Like many other organisations that have staff spread across the country, we have used an annual event to communicate with our managers and explain strategy for the year ahead.

In light of the coalition government's requirement for public bodies to make efficiencies the Commission decided to cancel this event, to avoid the balance of the costs being incurred.

Audit Commission: Official Hospitality

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on *(a)* functions and *(b)* hotel room hire at the City Inn, Westminster in the last 12 months. [37550]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend direct.

Letter from Eugene Sullivan, dated 2 February 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply.

The Commission has spent £10,726.87 on Commission activities at the City Inn in the last 12 months. The Commission has not used the City Inn for any such activities since June 2010.

We have spent £63,540.38 on overnight accommodation in the last 12 months. This includes £18,055.36 on accommodation for the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is required to be in London and he stays overnight in London on average 3 nights per week.

£4,142 was spent on Commissioner accommodation. Commissioners are required to attend Board meetings in London and overnight accommodation is provided for those Commissioners who live outside a commutable distance.

The remaining £41,342.52 was accommodation for Audit Commission staff from around the country who are required to stay in London overnight when attending our London office.

Accommodation at the City Inn was purchased at the government rate.

Departmental Internet

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 485W, on departmental internet, whether he plans to upgrade his Department's web browsers from Internet Explorer 6. [37256]

Robert Neill: We are presently engaged in upgrading from Internet Explorer 6 to Internet Explorer 8. The Department's use of web browsers remains under review, reflecting new technology and the business costs and benefits.

Departments: Credit Cards

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Ministers in his Department and their private offices spent on their corporate credit card facility in 2009-10. [36891]

Robert Neill: Ministers in this Department are not issued with credit cards. The amount spent in 2009-10 on credit cards held by their private offices was £3,146.

Gardens: Property Development

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what monitoring arrangements are in place concerning the construction of dwellings on garden land. [37479]

Greg Clark: Further to the new Government's changes to planning guidance to give councils more powers to tackle unwanted garden grabbing, my Department is working with Ordnance Survey (the data provider) to develop a new land use category "residential gardens" to enable numbers of dwellings built in this category to be recorded.

Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any planning application for a third runway at Heathrow would be determined by the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit of the Planning Inspectorate. [37555]

Robert Neill: No, subject to the passage of the Localism Bill and the abolition of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, any (theoretical) application for a third runway at Heathrow airport would be examined by the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit but would be decided by the Secretary of State for Transport.

Home Information Packs

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on the housing market of the ending of home information packs; and if he will make a statement. [32123]

Andrew Stunell: No such assessment has been made.

Housing: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds his Department has provided for the purpose of supporting private sector spending on housing in Halifax in the last five years. [37351]

Grant Shapps: The Kickstart programme (2009-10 to 2010-11), managed by the Homes and Communities Agency, was targeted at private sector developers with the aim of unlocking the construction of high quality mixed tenure housing developments. £0.7 million was allocated from this programme to support the unlocking of 60 homes in Calderdale. The Homes and Communities Agency does not hold information on a constituency basis and so my Department is unable to provide a breakdown of how this allocation would have supported house building in the Halifax area.

The New Homes Bonus, moving forward, will support all types of housing increases across Calderdale.

Localism Bill

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the impact assessment for part 2 of the Localism Bill; and if he will make a statement. [36537]

Greg Clark: The impact assessment for part 2 of the Localism Bill is available on the DCLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismeufines

Solar Power: Brownfield Sites

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to confine the construction of solar parks to brownfield sites. [37468]

Robert Neill: Current planning policy assumes that renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. We have invited organisations and individuals to offer their suggestions on what priorities and policies we might adopt in the new National Planning Policy Framework.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Adult Learning Grant

Angela Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which organisation will be responsible for administration of the Adult Learning Grant in future; whether the grant will continue to be paid after September 2011; and if he will make a statement. [37177]

Mr Hayes: Paragraph 44 of "Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth" sets out the Government's plans for adult learner support funds. The administration of those funds will be considered as the plans are developed.

Banks: Loans

Alec Shelbrooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will ask the Office of Fair Trading to initiate an inquiry into the practice of banks charging interest on loans during the period in which payments on such loans are being processed by the bank and where the account from which the payment has been made is with the same bank. [37473]

Mr Davey: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is not aware of having received complaints in respect of this particular practice. However, it considers that no further interest should be charged on loans once it is apparent to the lender that due repayment has been made. While it is accepted that banks need time to process payments, the OFT would expect the processing time to be appropriately short in particular where the payment is being made from an account held with the same lender. The OFT would expect lenders to be transparent with borrowers about the processing time for repayments of loans in order that borrowers can take steps to submit repayment in sufficient time to avoid the imposition of further interest or charges.

Fair Trading Act 1973

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legislative amendments by *(a)* Act or *(b)* statutory instrument have amended the definition or meaning in law of the term "participant" contained in section 118(1)(b) of the Fair Trading Act 1973; what definition of the term his Department uses in relation to that Act; what changes he has identified to that definition between the date of enactment of the 1973 Act and the present definition; and if he will make a statement. [37496]

Mr Davey: Section 118(1)(b) of the Fair Trading Act does not contain the term "participant". The following therefore assumes the reference in the question to be a reference to the term "participants" in section 118(1)(a) of the Act as defined in section 118(8).

There have been no legislative amendments to the definition of the term "participant" in section 118(8) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 which is the definition this Department uses in relation to the relevant sections of the Act. There have been no other changes to that definition.

Furs: Labelling

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of requiring clothing made from or trimmed with real fur to be labelled as such; and if he will make a statement. [37644]

Mr Davey: No. The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations (CPRs) already require traders to disclose whether clothing is made from or trimmed with real fur where this is material information which the average consumer needs to make an informed purchasing decision.

A national requirement for fur products to be labelled would be at significant risk of breaching full harmonisation in the EU Unfair Commercial Practices Directive 2005 (UCPD) which the CPRs implement. This is because it would impose more prescriptive requirements than those in the directive which requires a case-by-case assessment of whether this proposed labelling is material information which the average consumer needs, according to the context, to make an informed choice.

Where it is material information it would need to be given to consumers in good time before they make their purchasing decision.

Insolvency: Regulation

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans to align regulation of debt management providers with that of other professionals working in the insolvency sector. [37549]

Mr Davey: While there are no current plans to align regulation in the way you suggest, the Office of Fair Trading continues to work within the current licensing regime and you will be aware that as a result a number of debt management providers are facing licensing action.

Our recent call for evidence, which looked at the whole personal insolvency regime, including debt management, closed recently and the Government response and proposals will be published shortly.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Midlands

Margaret Beckett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in establishing a local enterprise partnership for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. [37299]

Mr Davey: The local enterprise partnership proposal covering Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire was given the go-ahead by the Government on 28 October 2010 and invited to put their governance arrangements in place. The Government are awaiting notification that this work has been done, at which point they will formally recognise the partnership. Government officials continue to work with the partnership as they take this work forward.

Manufacturing Industries: EC Countries

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the effect on the competitiveness of British manufacturing companies of short-time working arrangements in other EU countries. [37187]

Mr Davey: Short-time working arrangements are a matter for individual companies. Some EU Governments, but not the UK, support such arrangements through their labour market and social security policies and these have not been considered damaging to UK competitiveness. Also, some exceptional measures were introduced during the recession. It is important that these exceptional policies do not become permanent.

Manufacturing Industries: Immigration Rules

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* review the effect on manufacturing industry of the changes to immigration rules to take effect in April 2011. [37092]

Mr Prisk: The Government consulted widely with all sectors of industry during the development of the policy to limit non-EU economic migration. We will continue to monitor and review the effect of changes to the migration system on businesses, including in the manufacturing sector.

Money Lenders: Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department has put in place to combat unscrupulous money lenders in the last 13 years; and what plans he has for further such measures in the next five years. [37510]

Mr Davey: The Consumer Credit Act 1974 requires providers of consumer credit to apply to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) for a licence. The legislation was reformed by the Consumer Credit Act 2006. This included requirements for the OFT to adopt a more targeted, risk-based approach to consumer credit licensing, focusing on the areas of highest risk to consumers.

The Government are now considering further reforms to the consumer credit regime as part of the wider changes proposed to the institutional framework for financial regulation. A consultation document published on 21 December 2010 is considering the merits of transferring responsibility for consumer credit from the OFT to the new Consumer Protection and Markets Authority, thereby bringing consumer credit into the same regulatory regime as other retail financial services and with a view to delivering stronger protections for consumers.

Since 2004, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has provided funding of more than £21 million to fund specialist regional teams across the country to tackle the problem of those lenders who operate without a licence. To date, the teams have helped more than 16,000 victims, written off £37 million of illegal debt and secured over 180 convictions with prison sentences totalling 70 years.

Office of Fair Trading

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Office of Fair Trading in regulating businesses providing debt management plans. [37548]

Mr Davey: Since being given new powers in 2008, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has focused attention on the debt management industry. It has set up a dedicated team to investigate the debt management market, carried out a comprehensive review of compliance in the industry and taken significant enforcement actions targeting the worst companies and behaviours.

The key findings to emerge from the debt management compliance review, which included onsite compliance visits by Trading Standards Officers, a website sweep and a mystery shopping exercise, were that:

misleading advertising is the most significant area of non-compliance, in particular failing to disclose a fee is retained by the business and misrepresenting debt management services as being free when they are not

frontline advisers working for debt management companies are lacking in competence and are providing poor advice based on inadequate information

there is low industry awareness of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) rules for resolving consumer complaints.

The OFT's compliance report set out a detailed action plan to improve standards across the industry, focusing on robust enforcement action against licensees that fail, or refuse, to change advertising and/or behaviour.

The OFT published its compliance report in September 2010 and at the same time announced that it had warned 129 firms that they needed to submit evidence demonstrating compliance or face licensing action. As a follow-up to this announcement, on 28 January 2011 the OFT confirmed that 35 debt firms had surrendered their licences, eight faced action to revoke their licences, seven were under further investigation and 79 had submitted evidence, which is now being reviewed.

If action is taken against the additional seven companies and/or if some of the 79 firms who submitted evidence are found to be non-compliant, the OFT will publicise the details of this enforcement action at the appropriate time.

As well as taking action as a result of the compliance review, the OFT has also taken a number of other licensing actions in the debt management sector and has cracked down on look-alike debt management websites posing as charity or official sites, misleading trading names, inappropriate cold calling (working with the Information Commissioners Office) and has refused to licence companies that cannot demonstrate sufficient competence or experience. Since April 2008, the OFT has taken 37 licensing actions, issued notices to 69 companies/traders, and sent 185 warning letters and 951 advisory letters.

The OFT is also in the process of updating its Debt Management Guidance to take explicit account of new and emerging unfair business practices, and will work with the two main trade bodies, the Debt Managers Standards Association (DEMSA) and the Debt Resolution Forum (DRF) to support their initiatives to introduce higher standards in the industry.

Office of Fair Trading: Inspections

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many on-site compliance visits have been carried out by the Office of Fair Trading in relation to compliance with its Debt Management Guidance since September 2010. [37541]

Mr Davey: Since September 2010 the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has completed or is in the process of arranging for Local Authority Trading Standards Services (LATSS) officers to visit and check the competence and compliance of a further 30 new applicants. This rolling programme of compliance visits is a key element of the OFT's action plan for addressing problems identified in its compliance review findings report, published in September 2010, and forms part of the OFT's wider strategy for pro-actively monitoring compliance with its debt management guidance.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Manpower

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the likely effects on his Department's staffing levels in Livingston constituency *(a)* in each local office and *(b)* by the service provided of the implementation of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [36878]

Chris Grayling: As the Department for Work and Pensions has two Jobcentre Plus offices in the Livingston constituency and the administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh, I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question; the likely effects on (a) his Department's staffing levels in Livingston constituency for each local office and (b) service provided of the implementation of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are currently finalising national budgets for the year ahead and we have not yet worked through the staffing levels to individual Jobcentres. I will write to notify you of our staffing position in the two Jobcentres in your constituency before the end of the financial year.

Under the terms of the Spending Review, our funding includes supporting the Government's welfare reform agenda, such as Universal Credit. However, the Department also needs to continue making significant efficiencies in its work to meet a 26 per cent reduction in real terms from its core budget.

For Jobcentre Plus this will mean a significant transformation of our business, exploiting technology and using the experience of our own people to drive out inefficiencies in our processes.

Under the Government's proposals for "Get Britain Working", Jobcentres and community partners will offer personalised advice and a menu of flexible support options, for example, through local community Work Clubs, offering Work Experience in local businesses, and "Work Together" volunteering options. From summer 2011 we will introduce the Work Programme through contracted providers.

Employment and Support Allowance

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those in the work-related activity group of employment and support allowance he expects to be successful in finding work within one year. [37192]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not forecast the number of people who we expect to find work. The new Work programme, in conjunction with support from Jobcentre Plus, will provide tailored, personalised employment support to help maximise the number of customers, including those in the work-related activity group, who find a job.

Employment and Support Allowance: Cancer

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason a person receiving oral chemotherapy who applies for employment and support allowance is placed in the work-related activity group whereas a person receiving non-oral chemotherapy is placed in the support group; and if he will make a statement. [37107]

Chris Grayling: The WCA is a functional assessment, which looks at what someone can do rather than basing entitlement on their diagnosis. However, in recognition of the potentially severe functional limitation caused by types of chemotherapy, these customers can be "treated" as having limited capability for work-related activity even if they do not meet the functional criteria. Chemotherapy can be associated with a range of side effects varying from mild to severe. The purpose of this policy is that those experiencing the most severe functional limitations as a result of cancer treatment are automatically entitled to enter the support group of ESA. We have asked Professor Harrington, as part of his second annual review of the WCA, to explore whether the current policy best reflects this intent.

Employment: Young People

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the removal of the default retirement age on levels of youth employment in Scotland. [36805]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

In removing the default retirement age (DRA) we are removing a regulation which restricts people's ability to remain in the labour market. Based on the evidence, including that which is set out in our impact assessment—available at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/p/11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf

we do not believe that this will have a damaging effect on the employment of young people in Scotland or elsewhere. It will boost labour supply, which in turn leads to increased economic output, tax revenue and profits. Increasing the size of the labour force increases the productive potential of the economy as a whole and therefore provides a general economic benefit.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount of housing benefit paid was for each tenure type in *(a)* the Dumfries and Galloway local authority area and *(b)* Dumfries and Galloway constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [31528]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

(a) The average amount of housing benefit paid in the Dumfries and Galloway local authority area for each tenure type is as follows:

	£
All tenures	61.50
Tenure type	
Social rented sector	57.37
Private rented sector	75.26

Notes:
1. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
2. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Tenure type does not include recipients with unknown tenure type.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns.
5. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and September 2010 is the latest.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract 100% individual level data (SHBE), September 2010.

(b) The information is not available.

At present geographic breakdowns are ~~only~~ available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data which will include parliamentary constituencies.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made on reviewing the *(a)* employment law and *(b)* health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36971]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions is fully engaged in the Whitehall-wide review of employment and workplace law announced earlier this year. While DWP does not have responsibility for employment laws we are considering areas of regulation that affect employers and their employees, area by area, over the long term.

Lord Young's review of health and safety laws and the compensation culture, "Common Sense, Common Safety", carried out for the Prime Minister, was published on 15 October 2010. Actions to implement Lord Young's recommendations are being taken forward across Government in line with the timetable set out in his report.

Insolvency

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the likely number of applications for insolvency in *(a)* Sunderland, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* nationally in the next 12 months. [37697]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Insolvency Service only holds statistics for actual insolvency cases.

Regional statistics for individual insolvencies are published on the Insolvency Service website:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm

The figures for the north-east, Sunderland and England are reproduced in the following table.

	Total individual insolvencies		
	North-east	*Sunderland*	*England*
2000	1,413	142	23,861
2001	1,441	154	25,116
2002	1,563	143	26,125
2003	1,710	191	31,370
2004	2,119	221	41,554
2005	2,991	387	61,661
2006	5,358	634	98,239
2007	5,411	682	98,380
2008	5,930	729	98,506
2009	7,855	869	124,044

Figures for corporate insolvencies are only available for England and Wales as a whole, and are published on the Insolvency Service website:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolvency-statistics.htm

Forecasts of likely insolvencies are not produced by Government.

However, petitions for the winding up of a company or partnership or the bankruptcy of an individual are made via the courts and petition statistics are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Justice publishes petition statistics for bankruptcies and compulsory liquidations by region. The latest statistics are available here:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/companywindingupandbankruptcy.htm

Jobseeker's Allowance

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance; and how many of these people claim housing benefit. [32472]

Chris Grayling: The following table provides the number of people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* each region of England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance.

The information on jobseeker's allowance claimants also in receipt of housing benefit is not available. Information is collected on the number of housing benefit claimants in receipt of a passporting benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance. However the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Government office region	*Caseload*
North-east	80,900
North-west	178,900
Yorkshire and the Humber	144,300
East midlands	96,800
West midlands	157,900
East	108,600
London	216,300
South-east	131,700
South-west	82,000
Wales	71,200
Scotland	135,600
United Kingdom	1,462,700

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. United Kingdom figures include Northern Ireland.
3. These figures are published at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/Default.asp

Source:

NOMIS Claimant Count (Seasonally Adjusted), November 2010

Older Workers: Scotland

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of workers aged 65 years in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Livingston constituency who are likely to remain in the work force for an additional year in 2011 following the end of the default retirement age. [37701]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

Our impact assessment estimates that around 6,000 additional workers are likely to remain in the work force across the UK in the first year. No separate estimate was made for Scotland. We do not have data from which to produce robust estimates on the proportion likely to remain in the work force at sub-regional level. The full impact assessment was published on 13 January and is available at:

http://bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/p/11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* income support have a partner in prison. [34908]

Chris Grayling: The requested information is not available.

Universal Credit

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to provide additional support to *(a)* parents of disabled children, *(b)* children with a disability, *(c)* carers and *(d)* pensioners with children when determining the entitlement criteria for universal credit. [36653]

Chris Grayling: Universal credit will consist of a basic personal allowance with additional amounts for disability, caring responsibilities, housing costs and children.

We are looking at what extra support may be needed for disabled people in universal credit. At the same time we will consider the structure of support for disabled children.

We are reviewing whether changes to carer's allowance will be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit.

Finally we are considering how best to support pensioners with the cost of rent and dependent children and plan to make some changes to pension credit. These changes will consolidate support for rent with the help available for other housing costs within pension credit, and add a further element to provide income-related help for pensioners with dependent children.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration will be given to childcare costs in determining entitlement to universal credit. [36655]

Chris Grayling: The Government are continuing to work with stakeholders to establish the best approach to supporting parents with the costs of childcare in universal credit. We will announce our conclusion in the coming months.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what importance will be placed on the views of claimants' GPs in work capability assessments for the purposes of the payment of employment and support allowance under his proposals for welfare reform. [33972]

Chris Grayling: The Department's decision maker must consider all the available evidence before making a decision on benefit entitlement. Any information provided by a claimant's GP is therefore fully considered.

TREASURY

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37241]

Justine Greening: No spending was incurred in 2009-10 by the Treasury on Department-branded drinks coasters.

Departmental Public Appointments

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men have been appointed to public duties by his Department since May 2010; [35406]

(2) what public appointments he has made since his appointment; and to what payments each person so appointed is entitled; [35428]

Justine Greening: Information on key public appointments made since May 2010 is published in individual press releases. Where details of remuneration are not included in the release, they should be published separately by the relevant body. HM Treasury press releases are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches.htm

In December 2010 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the appointment of a lead non-executive director to the Treasury Board. The relevant press release, which is on the Cabinet Office website, can be found at the following link.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/uk-leaders-appointed-support-whitehall%E2%80%99s-transformation

Information on the gender of those serving on the boards of public bodies is published annually. Information for the 2010-11 period will be published in due course.

Double Taxation: Scotland

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had on the potential for double taxation to occur as a result of granting greater fiscal powers to the Scottish Parliament. [37783]

Danny Alexander: The increased fiscal powers for the Scottish Government introduced in the Scotland Bill will not increase the potential for double taxation. The Scottish rate of income tax will be payable by those individuals who meet the definition of a Scottish taxpayer. This definition has been designed to leave in place the existing rules and procedures which currently apply to individuals who are tax resident in the UK.

This means that a Scottish taxpayer will continue to have access to double taxation relief under the UK's international taxation agreements in the same way as anyone else who is resident in the UK.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue was raised through duties payable on fuel in each of the last five years; [37339]

(2) what information his Department holds on the *(a)* amount and *(b)* proportion of revenue from duties on fuel arising from each (i) county council and (ii) metropolitan area. [37340]

Justine Greening: HM Revenue and Customs routinely publishes data on fuel duty revenues accruing to the Exchequer through fuel duty from 1999 to date at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulloil

The method by which revenue is collected directly from fuel producers does not distinguish between different fuel consumers or geographic areas.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on small businesses of increases in the rate of fuel duty. [37619]

Justine Greening: Small businesses are affected by a range of measures to tackle the deficit and support growth including fuel duty and other policy measures. The June 2010 Budget set out changes to corporation tax to reduce the small profits rate to 20% from April 2011 and the main rate will reduce from 28% to 24% over the course of four financial years. Businesses may reclaim VAT and deduct other business costs including fuel costs under existing business tax arrangements.

Inflation

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the difference in effects of levels of inflation on *(a)* the elderly and *(b)* other age groups. [35564]

Justine Greening: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces inflation figures by different household types. The UK's monetary policy framework gives operational responsibility for maintaining price stability to the independent Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England. However, the Government recognise the pressures that those on fixed incomes, including pensioners, face when prices increase.

To help pensioners the Government have restored the earnings link and given a triple guarantee that the basic state pension will increase by the highest of the growth in average earnings, prices or 2.5%, and is also preserving key benefits and pensions for older people.

Petrol: Prices

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the potential relationship between the price of petrol in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other European countries and economic activity and growth in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [37105]

Justine Greening: The sterling oil price has risen 28% over the past year, and the euro area oil price by 35%. The Government consider a range of factors when making their assessment of economic activity and growth in the UK and the world economy.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is responsible for producing independent economic and fiscal forecasts. The OBR published its latest economic forecast on 29 November 2010, which can be found online at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk

The OBR's forecast for growth in the UK is broadly consistent with the Bank of England and HM Treasury's latest average of independent forecasts.

EDUCATION

Academies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of the legal advice which informed Lord Hill's letter of 15 December 2010 to head teachers of schools that have applied to convert to academy status. [35460]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* It is a long established principle of law that legal advice to any person, including to Ministers, attracts legal professional privilege and is, accordingly, not required to be disclosed. That principle is also recognised in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, where there is a specific exemption against disclosure in relation to information that would be covered by legal professional privilege. I do not intend, in the circumstances, to place in the Library any legal advice that may have informed Lord Hill's letter.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what resources his Department has allocated to responding to legal challenges from the local authorities who have had their Building Schools for the Future funding withdrawn. [35049]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* The Secretary of State is defending this action and has engaged Treasury Solicitors and leading counsel in the normal way.

College of Social Work

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which trade unions are involved in discussions on the establishment of the College of Social Work. [35707]

Tim Loughton: In 2009 the Social Work Task Force recommended the establishment of an independent College of Social Work to articulate and promote the interests of good social work. It will give the profession itself strong, independent leadership; a clear voice in public debate, policy development and policy delivery; and strong ownership of professional social work standards.

The establishment process for the College was guided from January to September 2010 by a development group with representation from across the social work sector, including frontline practitioners, employer representatives, regulators, educators, work force organisations and the British Association of Social Workers, Unison and Aspect. Since September interim co-chairs and an interim board have been appointed who are taking forward this work and have maintained links with all parties.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36602]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education has recently completed a number of projects in its HQ buildings to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10% by June 2011. These include building software modifications and installing energy saving variable speed drives on pumps, motors and fans.

Estate rationalisation in Sheffield has also yielded significant emission reductions when the Department relocated to smaller, more efficient accommodation in June 2010.

Departmental Official Cars

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many Ministerial cars have been used by his Department since May 2010; [35202]

(2) what the *(a)* make and *(b)* model was of each car provided by the Government Car Service for use by his Department since May 2010; and which Minister of his Department has used each such vehicle. [35203]

Tim Loughton: Five allocated cars were inherited from the previous Administration. Details of *(a)* make and *(b)* model are as follows:

Number	*Vehicle make/model*
1	Jaguar XJ TDVi Sovereign (changed to Toyota Avensis T4 in July 2010)
3	Toyota Prius T3
1	Honda Civic ES Hybrid

However, since 6 September 2010 only the Secretary of State retains an allocated vehicle.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Government Car Service since May 2010. [35215]

Tim Loughton: The total invoiced expenditure on the Government Car Service for the Department for Education is £180,050 since May 2010. This compares with a cost of £447,915 for the same period in 2009-2010. Both figures relate to cost incurred from 12 May to 19 January for all car services.

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Department who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34821]

Tim Loughton: All contracted staff working for the Department for Education in London are paid at the 2010 level of the London living wage of £7.60 per hour or above. This does not apply to contracted staff working at our regional headquarter offices who are paid at the level of the national minimum wage or above.

A decision on paying the 2011 level of £7.85 to London contracted staff is still to be determined.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pieces of artwork his Department has moved since May 2010. [36043]

Tim Loughton: Since May 2010 three items which were on loan to the Department for Education from the Government Art Collection have been returned to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010. [36045]

Tim Loughton: There has been no expenditure on redecoration of ministerial offices since May 2010.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34588]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education seeks to comply wherever possible with the guidance issued for central Government Departments on the efficient use of space which provides for a best practice target density of 10 square metres per person or better.

The Department has a policy of encouraging flexible working practices and has invested in technology to allow staff to work remotely, including from home, and has plans to improve the quality of this service to allow for more effective remote working.

The Department is in the process of introducing flexible working practices across its estate. Two of its four office buildings (St Paul's Place, Sheffield and Sanctuary Buildings, London) are already configured and operating in a flexible working environment and plans are in place to introduce this policy across the other two sites when it becomes cost effective and appropriate to do so.

The Department has on average one employee per desk and is currently achieving on average 14 square metres per employee. In sites where we have introduced flexible working environments our space utilisation is far better than those sites still operating in traditional working environments. The Department's ratio of employee per desk and square metre per person has recently been adversely affected by headcount reductions, although the Department has plans in place to improve its efficiency by property rationalisation and bringing tenants into space recently freed up by these staff reductions.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from the reduction in value of Capita's contract for education maintenance allowance; and whether his Department is liable for penalty payments under that contract as a result of the reduction. [33775]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* We are working with the Young People's Learning Agency, which administers the education maintenance allowance scheme on behalf of the Department for Education, to assess any costs that may arise from the reduction in value of Capita's contract. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has responded separately to the hon. Member for Scunthorpe on the question regarding liability for penalty payments, and a copy has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 13 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 33775.

The Department of Education has responded to you regarding the first part of your question. I have been asked to provide a reply to the latter part of your question regarding our liability to penalty payments as a result of the reduction to the value of the Capita contract.

I can confirm that we are not liable to penalty payments under this contract as a result of the reduction.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the number of people in Halifax constituency who received education maintenance allowance in 2010. [35955]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Halifax with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 25 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 35955 that asked:

"How many people in Halifax constituency are estimated to have received education maintenance allowance in 2010."

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

As at 31 December 2010, the take-up figure for young people in Calderdale who have received EMA during the 2010/11 academic year was 2,819.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Education Maintenance Allowance: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many young people receive education maintenance allowances in each *(a)* unitary authority and *(b)* district council area in York and North Yorkshire. [36566]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 27 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 36566.

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available for upper tier local authorities but not at district council level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Local authority	*Take-up (as at 31 December 2010)*
York	1,540
North Yorkshire	5,262

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the total monetary value of education maintenance allowance paid in each *(a)* unitary authority and *(b)* district council area in York and North Yorkshire was in each year since its inception. [36567]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 27 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 36567.

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available for upper tier local authorities but not at district council level. Local authority expenditure figures are available from the start of the 2009/10 academic year.

EMA expenditure for the two years for which figures are available is:

York

Academic year	*Expenditure (£)*
2009/10	1,352,195
2010/11 (as at 31 January)	544,045

North Yorkshire

Academic year	*Expenditure (£)*
2009/10	£4,838,490
2010/11 (as at 31 January)	£1,919,185

Education Maintenance Allowance: Sussex

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many students in *(a)* Mid Sussex and *(b)* West Sussex were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each of the last five years. [36968]

Mr Gibb: This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener, the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 28 January 2011:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ 36968.

Information on the number of young people who have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at local authority level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 is available on the YPLA website, at the following address:

http://ema.ypla.gov.uk/resources/research/takeup/

The table below shows take-up figures for all three Local Authorities within Sussex.

Academic year	*West Sussex local authority*	*East Sussex local authority*	*Brighton and Hove local authority*
2006/07	6,065	4,893	2,242
2007/08	6,289	5,069	2,248
2008/09	5,648	5,044	2,243
2009/10	7,253	5,911	2,658
2010/11[1]	6,943	5,701	2,686

[1] As at 31 December.

General Practitioners

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps the Department plans to take to ensure that pathfinder GP consortia are able to share best practice over the next two years. [37349]

Mr Simon Burns: I have been asked to reply.

The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. The Department has established a rolling programme of GP consortia pathfinders to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions. A Pathfinder learning network has been established to support the development of emerging consortia and to facilitate shared learning during the transition. The shadow NHS Commissioning Board will produce and publish an analysis of the findings of the pathfinder programme and set out the lessons learned that will be applied as consortia become formally established during 2012-13.

Music: Education

Mr Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what response he plans to make to the report of the Henley Review of Music Education. [34786]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* We expect the Henley Review of Music Education to be published shortly. The Government will respond as fully as possible to the recommendations at that time.

New Schools Network

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he made of the ability of other organisations to perform the role allocated to the New Schools Network. [35050]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 379-80W to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy).

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils in *(a)* North West Durham constituency, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England he expects to receive the pupil premium in each of the next five years. [32954]

Mr Gibb: The deprivation pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 School Census, Pupil Referral Unit Census and Alternative Provision Census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy, via the local authority or YPLA if the pupil is in a mainstream setting, or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting. The level of the pupil premium will be the same for every deprived pupil, no matter where they live.

The same level of premium is available for looked-after children who, at some point in the year to 31 March 2010, were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 local authority return.

The service child premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils who are registered as service child on the January 2011 School Census.

Each pupil known to be eligible will attract £200 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or YPLA.

The amounts allocated in 2011-12 will depend on the numbers of FSM pupils recorded on the January 2011 Censuses, so it is not possible to give figures for 2011 and subsequent years. We aim to extend the coverage of the pupil premium from 2012-13 onwards to pupils who have previously been known to be eligible for free school meals. We intend to consult on this, including the question of which deprivation indicator to use, in the summer.

It is possible to provide estimated figures for 2011-12 based on the number of FSM pupils in 2010, and these are given below. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed as the number of eligible pupils in 2011 could be higher or lower. Numbers of pupils are rounded to the nearest five. Please note suppressed figures have not been included in any of the totals.

North West Durham constituency

In North West Durham in January 2010 there were 1,865 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £801,950. These figures do not include looked-after children or service children. Data limitations prevent alternative provision being presented at constituency level, so these figures also do not include an estimate for the number of eligible children in such provision.

The north-east Region

In the north-east in January 2010 there were 76,100 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £32,723,000. The above estimates include pupils in maintained schools, alternative provision, pupil referral units and looked-after children. In addition there were 810 pupils known to be eligible for the service child premium, which would give rise to a premium of £162,000.

England

In England in January 2010 there were 1,223,465 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £526,089,950. However, we expect the number of eligible pupils to rise appreciably in 2011 as schools and local authorities encourage parents who have failed to register in the past to register for free school meals, and therefore estimate that total expenditure for 2011-12 will be £625 million. The above estimates include pupils in maintained schools, alternative provision, pupil referral units and looked after children. In addition to this there were 37,915 pupils known to be eligible for the service child premium, which would give rise to a premium of £7,583,000.

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special school pupils are eligible for free school meals in each ward in Sevenoaks constituency. [35986]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals is shown in the following table. This includes full-time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part-time pupils aged five to 15.

Maintained primary[1], state-funded secondary[1, 2] and special[3] schools: School meal arrangements[5]—As at January 2010 by each ward within Sevenoaks parliamentary constituency

	Primary[1]			*State-funded secondary[1, 2]*			*Special[3]*		
	Number on roll[4, 5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
Ash	312	58	186	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge	733	32	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Crockenhill and Well Hill	202	16	7.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dunton Green and Riverhead	454	24	5.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eynsford	318	8	2.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Farningham, Horton Kirby and South Darenth	256	14	5.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fawkham and West Kingsdown	265	21	7.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Halstead, Knockholt and Badgers Mount	225	19	8.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hextable	408	19	4.7	654	71	10.9	82	[6]—	[6]—
Kemsing	205	9	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Otford and Shoreham	345	18	5.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seal and Weald	347	42	12.1	380	54	14.2	25	[7]—	[7]—
Sevenoaks Eastern	77	25	32.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sevenoaks Northern	n/a	n/a	n/a	746	70	9.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sevenoaks Town and St John's	829	47	5.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sevenoaks Kippington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village	447	67	15.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	43	[6]—	[6]—
Swanley St Mary's	194	90	46.4	502	118	23.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Swanley White Oak	482	131	27.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Westerham and Crockham Hill	401	22	5.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	46	3	6.5
Sevenoaks (all wards)	6,500	662	10.2	2,282	313	13.7	196	129	65.8

n/a = Not applicable. No schools of this type

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Pupils who have full-time attendance and are aged 0 to 15, or pupils who have part-time attendance and aged five to 15.

[6] A percentage greater than 95.0, or the numerator for this percentage.

[7] One or two pupils, or a percentage based on one or two pupils.

Source:

School Census

Schools: Biometrics

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) England, (ii) Yorkshire and (iii) Leeds North West constituency employ biometric identity technology. [34520]

Mr Gibb: We do not collect data on the number of schools, whether primary or secondary, that use biometric identity technology but we estimate that approximately 30% of secondary schools and 5% of primary schools use such systems. Legislation will be introduced in the Freedom Bill to ensure that no children's biometric data is taken, in schools or colleges, without parental permission. The Freedom Bill will also give children the right to refuse to use biometric systems and ensure that alternatives are provided for children who opt out or whose parents opt out of using biometric technology.

Students: Finance

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements he proposes to put in place to monitor the effect of ending education maintenance allowance and starting enhanced discretionary learner support funding. [34212]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 January 2010]:* We will work with representatives of schools, colleges, training providers and interested bodies to develop the monitoring arrangements for the enhanced fund and further information will be available in due course.

Teachers: Conditions of Employment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on taking into account a decision to enter into an agreement with teaching unions on the pay and conditions of staff when determining whether a school is granted academy status; and if he will make a statement. [35459]

Mr Gibb: *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* The Secretary of State for Education will take a range of factors into account in deciding whether to enter into a funding agreement with an Academy. A school's intention to take advantage of key academy freedoms, which include the ability to set the pay and conditions of staff, is a relevant factor in the decision.

Teachers: Redundancy

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effects on levels of experience in the work force of planned redundancies in teaching staff in schools. [34406]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 January 2011]:* No such assessment has been made centrally. It is for schools and employers to make their own decisions.

The Department would expect schools to have regard to the capacity and capability, as well as skills and experience of the work force in making such decisions. The funding settlement for 2010-11 protects funding per pupil for schools in cash terms, and provides additional funding for the pupil premium on top of that. We would expect schools to look to make efficiency gains in areas such as procurement and back office before they consider reducing their teaching staff.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to question 29342, on the IGCSE, tabled on 3 December 2010 for ordinary written answer. [35984]

Mr Gibb: A response was issued to my hon. Friend on 27 January, *Official Report*, column 412W.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37378]

Gregory Barker: Since 6 May 2010, the Department has removed the Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading scheme Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2301), which were replaced by the Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1996).

In June 2010, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my noble Friend Lord Marland, responsible for the Department's regulatory agenda, wrote to 250 of the Department's key stakeholders asking for their views on ways to reduce DECC's regulatory burden. Following on from this exercise, DECC plan to repeal 28 regulations. The exact process for repealing these is still being explored (a suitable vehicle for repeal is being considered, and consultation with relevant parties such as the devolved Administrations needs to take place for certain policies). The response letter from my noble Friend and a summary of responses to this exercise was published in November 2010 on the DECC internet site:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/about/better_reg/better_reg.aspx

In addition, in July 2010 DECC introduced two deregulatory statutory instruments which prescribe a power to allow local authorities to sell electricity generated from renewable as well as combined heat and power sources:

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1908)

The Sale of Electricity by Local Authorities (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/1910)

Finally, the Energy Bill, introduced into the House of Lords in December 2010, sets out proposals to repeal the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) in England, Scotland and Wales. This will reduce regulatory burdens, support the Government's localism agenda and remove redundant legislation from the statute book.

Energy Supply

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what secondments *(a)* EDF Energy, *(b)* British Gas, *(c)* ScottishPower, *(d)* E.ON Energy and *(e)* Scottish and Southern Energy have made to his

Department since 2008; for what (i) periods and (ii) jobs such secondments were made; what secondments of staff from his Department have been made to each such firm; and for what (A) periods and (B) jobs such secondments were made since 2008. [37078]

Gregory Barker: The following tables show details of people who are or have been on secondment from or to the relevant bodies since October 2008 when the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created. There have been no secondments into DECC from either ScottishPower or Scottish and Southern Energy. There no have been no secondments out of DECC to EDF Energy, ScottishPower or Scottish and Southern Energy.

Secondments into DECC from 2008

DECC grade	*From which organisation*	*Secondment period (months)*
Grade 7	Centrica—British Gas	7
Grade 7	EDF Energy	13
Grade 7	EDF Energy	6
Grade 7	EDF Energy	7
Grade 7	EDF Energy	7

Secondments out of DECC from 2008

DECC grade	*To which organisation*	*Secondment period (months)*
Grade 7	E.ON Energy	15
Senior civil servant	British Gas	12

Fuel Oil

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on domestic heating oil from *(a)* members of the public, *(b)* Members of Parliament and *(c)* consumer organisations. [37863]

Charles Hendry: As I noted in the Fuel Poverty debate on 19 January, *Official Report*, columns 255-279WH, there have been a significant number of representations on the domestic oil market from the public and hon. Members of Parliament. I fully recognise the difficulties people have experienced with rising prices and supply problems, as set out in my written ministerial statement on 21 January, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS. I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market by the Office of Fair Trading, and I look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36974]

Charles Hendry: DECC is responsible for nuclear policy matters including the specific legislation relating to the regulation of safety in the nuclear industry—Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA 65). The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has responsibility for establishing the overall Health and Safety statutory framework to regulate industrial and workplace safety.

There are currently no plans to review the Nuclear Installations Act as a whole though some specific amendments are currently being developed to give effect to European legislation and international conventions.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households who have used *(a)* liquefied petroleum gas and *(b)* oil for domestic purposes in each of the last five years. [38068]

Charles Hendry: The following table shows the number of households in England that use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and the number that use heating oil as their main fuel for space heating for each of the years 2006 to 2008, which is the latest year for which this information is available.

Thousand

	Number of households in England using LPG	*Number of households in England using heating oil*
2006	79	894
2007	78	926
2008	97	828

In Wales in 2008, the latest year for which this information is available, around 22,000 households used LPG and around 143,000 households used oil. Similar data are not available for 2006 and 2007.

Natural Gas: Drilling

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will ask the Committee on Climate Change to examine the potential effects of the extraction of shale gas and coal bed methane in the UK *(a)* on achieving the UK's energy policy objectives and *(b)* on the development of renewable energy. [37478]

Charles Hendry: In the UK shale gas has not yet been commercially proven and coal bed methane has not yet been commercially proven on a large scale. Analysis of the potential effects of extraction on UK energy policy objectives and development of renewable energy would in the circumstances be subject to large uncertainties. There are no plans to ask the Committee on Climate Change to carry out such an examination.

Natural Gas: Reserves

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely proved global reserves of natural gas in each of the next 20 years. [36983]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not produce a statistic for the likely proved global reserves of gas.

However, the International Energy Agency estimates global proven reserves and recoverable resources in its World Energy Outlook Report. These place proven reserves at 184 tcm at the end of 2008.

Urenco: Mutual Societies

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 216W, on Urenco: mutual societies, what criteria the Government has applied in its assessment of the options in respect of the one third stake in Urenco. [37844]

Charles Hendry: The Government's assessment of the future options for the UK shareholding in Urenco will take account of the need to maintain protections in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security, as well as the need to deliver value for money for the tax payer.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley who are alcohol-dependent. [37463]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not held centrally. However, the information is available from the National Patient Treatment Agency.

Arthritis

Ian Lavery: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to work with charities and the third sector to deliver improved health outcomes for patients with rheumatoid arthritis; and if he will make a statement. [37202]

Paul Burstow: The recently published "NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12" sets out the national outcome goals that will be used to hold the proposed NHS Commissioning Board to account for delivering improved outcomes, including those for rheumatoid arthritis. Although, there is not a specific outcome indicator for rheumatoid arthritis in the NHS Outcomes Framework, we would expect progress to be captured under Domain 2: "Enhancing the quality of life for people with long-term conditions". This domain of the framework deliberately takes a generic approach to long-term conditions so as to ensure that no patients are excluded.

However, the Secretary of State for Health will not be setting out how these outcomes should be delivered; it will be for the NHS Commissioning Board to determine how best to deliver improvements by working with general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia, drawing on the advice and expertise of charitable and third-sector organisations.

The NHS Commissioning Board will have various tools and levers at its disposal to help deliver improved outcomes, which include the library of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standards; the Commissioning Outcomes Framework, which the NHS Commissioning Board will use to hold GP commissioning consortia to account; and other payment mechanisms between the NHS Commissioning Board, commissioners and providers. We expect the NHS Commissioning Board will want to draw on the expertise of charities and third sector organisations when designing these mechanisms.

The tools and levers available to the NHS Commissioning Board are described more fully in both "The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011-12", and "Liberating the NHS: legislative framework and next steps", which can be accessed via the following links:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_123138.pdf

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122661

Copies have already been placed in the Library.

Breast Cancer: Drugs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to ensure an adequate supply of Femara (letrozole) to local community pharmacists; [37459]

(2) what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on the supply of Femara (letrozole); [37460]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on the adequacy of supply of pharmaceutical drugs to the NHS of the purchase of such drugs by private companies for sale abroad. [37461]

Mr Simon Burns: We have been in contact with Novartis, the suppliers of Femara (letrozole) tablets. They have confirmed that there are supplies of this medicine available for United Kingdom patients. If pharmacists have problems obtaining it from their wholesaler, they can contact Novartis Customer Services to arrange a direct supply to the pharmacy. We have had discussions about Femara tablets with the devolved Administrations, and have made them aware of the supply situation.

The Department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and pharmaceutical supply chain stakeholders are working collaboratively to better understand and mitigate the impact of supply difficulties so that patients receive the medicines they need in a timely manner, and any arrangements take account of the time needed by pharmacists to source the medicines.

Business Interests

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether former officials of his Department have asked for permission to join *(a)* Care UK, *(b)* BUPA, *(c)* Roche, *(d)* Ellipse, *(e)* Grunenthal, *(f)* IMS Health, *(g)* Janssen-Cilag, *(h)* Lundbeck and *(i)* PharmaMar in the last two years. [37080]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has no record of former officials requesting permission to join Care UK, Priory Group, BUPA, Roche, Ellipse, Grunenthal, IMS Health, Janssen-Cilag, Lundbeck or PharmaMar.

All civil servants must obtain Government approval before taking any form of full-time, part-time or fee-paid employment in the United Kingdom, or overseas, with a public or private company or in the service of a foreign Government or their agencies. This rule also applies to any former civil servant within two years of their leaving Crown employment.

Since January 2009, 36 departmental employees or former employees submitted applications seeking approval to take up outside business appointments. Of these, 13 applications were approved unconditionally and 24 had restrictions imposed. Restrictions imposed are usually in the form of a period of delay between leaving the civil service and taking up the external post.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37655]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Number of qualified librarians employed in the Department 2000-10

	Number
2000	32
2001	34
2002	31
2003	36
2004	33
2005	31
2006	30
2007	30
2008	25
2009	24
2010	26

Notes:

1. The figures refer to the number of qualified librarians employed in corporate information services on library, web services, information assurance, records and knowledge management. Qualified librarian refers to holders of a Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) accredited qualification many of whom, but not all, were chartered. It is not possible to differentiate between the two categories of qualified or chartered, as chartered status is not an entry requirement for professional posts in government.
2. The Department did not employ any CILIP "Certified", paraprofessional Library staff during the specified period.

Source:

Staff-in-post returns for January of each year.

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37239]

Mr Simon Burns: In the last financial year for which figures are available, the communications directorate has not purchased or distributed any Department branded drinks coasters.

The Department does not hold central records on items such as drinks coasters and attempting to gather such information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Secondment

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees, including permanent and temporary contracted staff, are seconded from his Department and its agencies to *(a)* Care UK, *(b)* Priory Group, *(c)* BUPA, *(d)* Roche, *(e)* Ellipse, *(f)* Grunenthal, *(g)* IMS Health, *(h)* Janssen-Cilag, *(i)* Lundbeck and *(j)* PharmaMar. [37077]

Mr Simon Burns: No employee of the Department or its agency—the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency—is currently seconded to Care UK, Priory Group, BUPA, Roche, Ellipse, Grunenthal, IMS Health, Janssen-Cilag, Lundbeck or PharmaMar.

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees, including permanent and temporary contracted staff, are seconded to his Department and its agencies from *(a)* Care UK, *(b)* Priory Group, *(c)* BUPA, *(d)* Roche, *(e)* Ellipse, *(f)* Grunenthal, *(g)* IMS Health, *(h)* Janssen-Cilag, *(i)* Lundbeck and *(j)* PharmaMar. [37079]

Mr Simon Burns: Neither the Department nor its agency—the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency—have any individuals seconded to them who are employees of Care UK, Priory Group, BUPA, Roche, Ellipse, Grunenthal, IMS Health, Janssen-Cilag, Lundbeck or PharmaMar.

John Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what secondments *(a)* Care UK, *(b)* BUPA, *(c)* Roche, *(d)* Ellipse, *(e)* Grunenthal, *(f)* IMS Health, *(g)* Janssen-Cilag, *(h)* Lundbeck and *(i)* PharmaMar have made to his Department since 2008; for what (i) periods and (ii) jobs such secondments were made; what secondments of staff from his Department have been made to each such firm; and for what (A) periods and (B) jobs such secondments have been made since 2008. [37081]

Mr Simon Burns: Since 2008, there have been no secondments to—or from—the Department and Care UK, BUPA, Roche, Ellipse, Grunenthal, IMS Health, Janssen-Cilag, Lundbeck or PharmaMar.

Deviance and Behaviour Disorders: Day Centres

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of day care centres for people with personality disorders. [37622]

Paul Burstow: The number of personality disorder (PD) services is collected centrally, but this is not disaggregated into type of service. The following table shows dedicated PD services, which includes day hospital places, in England over the past three years:

	Personality disorder services
2009	46
2008	39.04
2007[1]	53

[1] In 2007 there may have been some double counting.

Source:

Adult Mental Health Service Mapping Atlas 2009.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the National Treatment Agency will publish figures on the number of clients treated through *(a)* residential rehabilitation and *(b)* community-based rehabilitation who subsequently required drug treatment services. [37767]

Anne Milton: Data input to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) by treatment providers recorded that 61,384 individuals left treatment in 2008-09. Of this total:

1,506 received residential rehabilitation as part of their treatment journey of whom 510 (34%) re-presented to treatment services in 2009-10; and

59,878 did not receive residential rehabilitation as part of their treatment journey of whom 16,488 (28%) re-presented to treatment services in 2009-10.

Almost all general practitioners providing prescribing and shared care services and almost all community treatment providers submit NDTMS returns. However, only around two thirds of residential rehabilitation providers submit NDTMS returns which limits the scope for monitoring outcomes for users of their services.

General Practitioners

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the representations received on his Department's White Paper on GP commissioning consortia. [37456]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" was published in July 2010, and set out our long-term vision for the national health service. Shortly after, we set out further details of our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortia of general practitioner practices in "Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients", with the consultation on these proposals running from July to October.

In December, we published our response to the consultation in "Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps" setting out our plans in further detail. This document set out a full analysis of the responses to the consultation and how our proposals were modified in light of the consultation.

All of these documents are available in the Library.

General Practitioners: Ashton-in-Makerfield

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for GP consortia have been received from Makerfield constituency. [37181]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 will provide for general practitioner (GP) consortia to be established from April 2012, prior to taking on full statutory responsibilities from April 2013. A rolling programme of GP pathfinder consortia has been established to test the different elements involved in GP-led commissioning and enable emerging GP consortia to get more rapidly involved in current commissioning decisions.

Groups of GP practices keen to participate in the pathfinder programme put themselves forward to their strategic health authority. There are currently no pathfinder consortia in Makerfield.

General Practitioners: Blackpool

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency. [37610]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) workforce census figures are not collected at constituency level. The following table shows the numbers of agreed general and personal medical services contracts within the Blackpool primary care trust (PCT) and the North Lancashire Teaching PCT, both of which serve the Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency.

	Contract count
Blackpool PCT	98
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	209

Notes:

1. Data as at 30 September 2009.

2. Data are for GPs (excluding retainers and registrars).

3. GP workforce census figures are not collected at constituency level. Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency is contained within and serviced by Blackpool PCT and North Lancashire Teaching PCT.

4. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality where changes impact on figures already published. This is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care, general and personal medical services statistics

Haemophilia

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which clotting factor products were in use *(a)* on and *(b)* off licence in the UK in 1994; and if he will make a statement. [37568]

Mr Simon Burns: Information held by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) confirms that the following clotting factor products had a valid authorisation in 1994 and were therefore available for use in the United Kingdom at that time, under the terms of their licence. Neither the MHRA nor the Department has any information regarding the extent of on-licence or off-licence use of these products. Additionally, the MHRA does not hold commercial information and therefore is unable to confirm which of these products were actually placed on the market by the marketing authorisation holders at this time.

Authorisation holder company name	*Licensed product name*	*Drug substance*
Bayer plc	Kogenate 250 lyophilised powder for reconstitution	Factor VIII (RDNA) (BHK)
Bayer plc	Kogenate 500 lyophilised powder for reconstitution	Factor VIII (RDNA) (BHK)
Bayer plc	Kogenate 1000 lyophilised powder for reconstitution	Factor VIII (RDNA) (BHK)
Hoechst UK Ltd.	Haemate-P 25IU/ML (250 and 500 unit size) and 33IU/ML (1000 unit)	

Authorisation holder company name	*Licensed product name*	*Drug substance*
Baxter Healthcare Ltd.	Recombinate antihaemophilic factor (recombinant) nominal 250I	Factor VIII (RDNA)(RCH) cell line 10A1C6
Baxter Healthcare Ltd.	Recombinate RAHF nominal 500IU/bottle	Factor VIII (RDNA)(RCH) cell line 10A1C6
Baxter Healthcare Ltd.	Recombinate RAHF nominal 1000IU/bottle	Factor VIII (RDNA)(RCH) cell line 10A1C6
Baxter Healthcare Ltd.	Hemofil M—AHF (human) monoclonal purified nominal 250IU/VI	Factor VIII
Baxter Healthcare Ltd.	Hemofil M—AHF (human) monoclonal purified nominal 500IU/VL	Factor VIII
Baxter Healthcare Ltd.	Hemofil M—AHF (human) monoclonal purified nominal 1000IU/ VIAL	Factor VIII
CSL Behring UK Ltd.	Monoclate-P 250, IU per vial nominal potency	Factor VIII (RDNA)
CSL Behring UK Ltd.	Monoclate-P 500, IU per vial nominal potency	Factor VIII (RDNA)
CSL Behring UK Ltd.	Monoclate-P 1000, IU units per vial nominal potency	Factor VIII (RDNA)
CSL Behring UK Ltd.	Mononine (freeze dried human coagulation factor IX) 250IU	Factor IX human (MAB purified)
CSL Behring UK Ltd.	Mononine (freeze dried human coagulation factor IX) 500IU	Factor IX human (MAB purified)
CSL Behring UK Ltd.	Mononine (freeze-dried human coagulation factor IX) 1000IU	Factor IX human (MAB purified)
Ipsen Biopharm Ltd.	Hyate: C lyophilisate for injection	Factor VIII
NHS National Services Scotland	Human factor IX concentrate (de fix) (powder for reconstitution)	Factor IX fraction
Grifols UK Ltd.	Alpha VIII 250, 500, 750, 1000, 1250, 1500 IV injection	Factor VIII
Grifols UK Ltd.	Alphanine injection 500IU (nominal)	Factor IX—plasma thromboplastin component
Grifols UK Ltd.	Alphanine injection 1000IU (nominal)	Factor IX—plasma thromboplastin component
Grifols UK Ltd.	Alphanine injection 1500IU (nominal)	Factor IX—plasma thromboplastin component
Bio Products Laboratory	Dried factor VIII fraction, type 8Y	Dried factor VIII
Bio Products Laboratory	Replenine	Human factor II; human factor IX and human factor X
Bio Products Laboratory	Replenate	Freeze-dried human coagulation factor VIII

Health and Social Care Bill

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation he plans to undertake on the provisions of the Health and Social Care Bill. [37457]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health and Social Care Bill takes forward the proposals contained in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". The Government undertook an extensive process of consultation and engagement around these proposals from July-October 2010. A variety of discussion and engagement events were held throughout this period and some 6,000 responses were received, which formed the basis for the Government's response, "Liberating the NHS: Legislative Framework and Next Steps", published on 15 December 2010. As the Bill progresses through Parliament, there will be an opportunity for hon. Members to debate the reforms and propose amendments.

Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve information to the public on NHS services for ex-service personnel. [37100]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department is working closely with service charities such as the Royal British Legion, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, Combat Stress and others to improve information to veterans and the wider public on NHS services for ex-service personnel. A leaflet, "Meeting the Healthcare Needs of Veterans in England" was produced by the Department in partnership with the Royal British Legion and was distributed widely through general practitioner surgeries and through the Royal British Legion. In addition, the NHS Choices Website contains several pages dedicated to veterans health issues, including mental health.

The hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) was asked by the Prime Minister to review mental health services for serving personnel and veterans. His report, published in October 2010, made a number of recommendations that will be delivered over the coming year. The Department will ensure that as new services are introduced to meet the mental health needs of veterans, these are publicised through media outlets.

Ms Bagshawe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rates of travel and subsistence expenses can be claimed from the NHS by war pensioners; when the current rates were implemented; and whether he has plans to review the rates in the light of increases in the cost of travel and subsistence. [37098]

Mr Simon Burns: Patient transport services (PTS) are maintained by national health service commissioners (primary care trusts) and generally booked by relevant secondary or community services medical professionals. Eligibility for non-urgent transport is based upon clinical need and available to all NHS patients.

The Hospital Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS) is designed to help with travel costs and arrangements for all NHS patients on low incomes. HTCS is for those who do not medically require PTS but require help in meeting the cost of travel to and from NHS medical care. The HTCS is means tested for low income earners with those on a range of low income benefits automatically entitled. This scheme is constituted under the National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) Regulations 1988 as amended.

The HTCS will reimburse all or some of the travel costs depending on eligibility. If the patient is entitled to qualifying benefits or allowances they will get back the full travel costs by using the cheapest form of public transport available, including any concessions or promotions. If the patient uses a private car, a claim for petrol and car parking charges where unavoidable, can be made at the mileage rate specified under the local HTCS.

The HTCS does not apply in cases where war pensioners incur travelling expenses when obtaining treatment of conditions caused by service. Such expenses may be met by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency who apply their eligibility criteria to individual cases.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he expects the 30 mental health nurses for veterans announced in the "Fighting Fit" report to be in post by March 2011; [37412]

(2) whether he expects the 24-hour support line for ex-service personnel to be operational by the end of January 2011. [37414]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department of Health is working with the national health service, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and service charities to deliver in England the recommendations put forward by the hon. Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) in his report to the Prime Minister, "Fighting Fit" that was published in October 2010. The specification for delivery of 30 additional mental health nurses is currently being developed through the armed forces networks. These are led by strategic health authorities and bring together primary care trusts with local representatives of the armed forces community, service charities and others. Commissioning for the service will commence in April 2011. There will be flexibility within the specification to ensure that additional resources are placed where they will have the most impact for veterans with mental health problems. This specification will ensure that those employed will have the right competencies to deliver this service. Wider training on veterans' issues will also be provided.

The Department of Health is working with the charity Combat Stress to provide a 24-hour helpline service for veterans seeking help. A tender process for this has recently been completed and work is in hand to put this in place by the end of February.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take steps to reduce stigma associated with veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. [37413]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to reducing the stigma associated with all forms of mental ill health. For veterans in particular, we have begun a pilot of mentoring for service leavers; are planning an on-line counselling service and are asking each part of the national health service to make access to treatment for veterans a priority. We are taking all the steps we can to reduce the reluctance to seek help that is so characteristic of young men.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of including transplants on the list of medical conditions that grant exemption from prescription charges; [37311]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of amending the list of medical conditions that grant exemption from prescription charges in line with the recommendations of Professor Sir Ian Gilmore's review. [37313]

Mr Simon Burns: No estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of providing an exemption from prescription charges to patients who have undergone a transplant.

Professor Sir Ian Gilmore's report, "Prescription charges review: implementing exemption from prescription charges for people with long term conditions", recommended an approach to exemption that was based on a broad definition of a long-term condition rather than amending the existing list of medical conditions. The review estimated that once fully implemented, exempting people with long term conditions from prescription charges could cost £430 million per annum. The report was published on 27 May 2010 and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Primary Health Care

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department is taking steps to maintain the management of the support functions for family health services will continue to be managed on a local basis after the abolition of primary care trusts; [37101]

(2) what plans he has for the future management of family health services; and if he will make a statement. [37102]

Mr Simon Burns: Subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill presented to Parliament on 19 January 2011, the Bill will make the NHS Commissioning Board responsible for commissioning family health services including primary care, pharmacy, dental and ophthalmic services.

The NHS Commissioning Board will decide how to carry out its responsibilities.

Prostate Gland: Medical Treatments

Mr Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consultations he undertook with medical practitioners in the field before issuing his proposed changes to the Best Practice Tariff for laser treatment of the enlarged prostate; [37315]

(2) what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the proposed Best Practice Tariff for laser treatment of the enlarged prostate with his Department's obligations for choice in day care and treatment options for the most vulnerable patients. [37316]

Mr Simon Burns: The 2011-12 Best Practice Tariff for laser treatment of the enlarged prostate has been developed with the support of clinicians, including the President of the British Association of Urological Surgeons.

The draft 2011-12 tariffs were shared for 'sense check' in October 2010, and changes were subsequently made to the levels of the proposed tariff for resection of prostate by laser to reflect concerns that a day case rate target of 90% was overly ambitious for delivery in one year. A revised target of 30% was therefore agreed, and the draft 2011-12 tariff prices were increased accordingly.

The 2011-12 tariff prices were published for 'road test' on 22 December, since when it has been brought to the Department's attention that the published Best Practice Tariff price for resection of prostate by laser contained a typographical error. The October 2010 'sense check' prices for this procedure had been inadvertently included, rather than the revised prices that were agreed for 'road test'.

The agreed prices for resection of prostate by laser will appear in the final tariff package for 2011-12 when it is published in February.

Sickle Cell Diseases: Greater London

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training the London Ambulance Service gives to ambulance staff on the *(a)* symptoms and *(b)* emergency treatment of sickle cell anaemia; and if he will make a statement. [37527]

Mr Simon Burns: National guidance on the symptoms and emergency treatment of people with sickle cell was published in the "UK Ambulance Service Clinical Practice Guidelines (2006)". All frontline London Ambulance Service staff receive training in the assessment and management of patients with sickle cell conditions, in line with these guidelines. Further national guidance was issued to staff in 2009. Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Library.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the London strategic health authority is taking to improve the emergency care of patients with sickle cell disease; and if he will make a statement. [37540]

Mr Simon Burns: The planning, delivery and improvement of services for people with sickle cell, including emergency care, are the responsibility of local commissioners and providers. It is not the responsibility of the strategic health authority.

Speech Therapy: Departmental Coordination

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions officials in his Department have had with officials in the Department for Education on the role of speech and language therapy services in developing communication skills and literacy. [37484]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health and the Department for Education are jointly engaged in discussions with the Communications Trust, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and others on how best to achieve the right services for children with speech, language and communications needs, in the context of the Government's wider programme.

Officials from both Departments are working closely together on a range of issues affecting children and families, for example on health visiting and early years services where improvements will support early identification of speech and language needs, as will be outlined in the forthcoming special education needs and disability Green Paper.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many improvised explosive device attacks there were on UK forces in Afghanistan in each month between June 2006 and December 2007. [36154]

Nick Harvey: Records of incidents for the whole of Afghanistan are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data are more readily available for attacks within the Task Force Helmand area of operations in Helmand province, which includes the majority of UK forces deployed to Afghanistan. The figures refer to an explosion that has subsequently been reported by units operating within the taskforce Helmand area of responsibility. This includes both "laid" improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and suicide (both vehicle and person-borne) devices. These figures do not include IED finds with no detonation or IED false alarms.

Month	*IED attacks*
June 2006	4
July 2006	5
August 2006	7
September 2006	9
October 2006	6
November 2006	0
December 2006	3
January 2007	2
February 2007	8
March 2007	8
April 2007	13
May 2007	23
June 2007	23
July 2007	32
August 2007	18
September 2007	32
October 2007	24
November 2007	15
December 2007	21

These data are based on information derived from a number of sources and can only be an estimate, not least because of the difficulties in ensuring a consistent interpretation of the basis for collating statistics in a complex fast-moving multinational operational environment. They are modified over time as more information becomes available.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the capital costs are of *(a)* constructing and *(b)* extending the runway at Kandahar airfield for military purposes; what proportion of these costs will be recoverable to the UK on departure; and if he will make a statement. [36588]

Nick Harvey: The reconstruction at Kandahar airfield is being undertaken by NATO and is US-led.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [37066]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 578-9, to my hon. Friend the Member for Salisbury (John Glen).

Africa: Military Aid

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the UK's ability to mount *(a)* humanitarian and *(b)* peacekeeping interventions following the implementation of the Strategic Defence and Security Review in (i) Sierra Leone, (ii) Ivory Coast and (iii) other African countries where opposed intervention is deemed necessary. [36587]

Dr Fox: It would be inappropriate to outline specific plans for individual countries and regions considered in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and in routine departmental planning. The SDSR established force structures for both the near-term and longer-term that would be capable of conducting overseas operations across the spectrum of operations.

Aircraft Carriers: Training

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what programmes have been *(a)* planned and *(b)* initiated to train fast-jet pilots and supporting carrier personnel to retain the skills necessary to operate the Queen Elizabeth-class carriers; where such personnel will receive their training; under whose command they will be placed; and if he will make a statement. [36616]

Nick Harvey: Service personnel will be trained in the skills required to operate the Queen Elizabeth-class carrier and the Joint Combat Aircraft as the UK Carrier Strike capability is generated. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force fast-jet pilots and supporting personnel will require new skill-sets which will be developed through co-operative programmes with allied nations who operate aircraft carriers. Once the introduction to service dates have been confirmed, further engagement will take place with partner nations to identify training opportunities for both ship-based and flying-related personnel.

Armed Forces: Allowances

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 45-47WS, on armed forces allowances, what estimate he has made of the savings which will result from changes to *(a)* motor mileage allowance, *(b)* commitment bonus and *(c)* specialist pay reserve banding in the financial years (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; [36818]

(2) what estimate he has made of the savings which will result from changes to *(a)* recruitment and retention allowance (London), *(b)* disturbance allowance, *(c)* daily subsistence, *(d)* get you home (early years) and *(e)* get you home (seagoers) in the financial year (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; [37005]

(3) what estimate he has made of the savings which will result from changes to *(a)* incidental expenses allowance, *(b)* local overseas allowance, *(c)* food and incidentals allowance and *(d)* living out supplemental rates of local overseas allowance in (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15. [37006]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 31 January 2011]*: Estimates have been made in respect of proposed savings against the allowances budget and these are presented in the following table. These are predicated on such factors as a constant exchange rate, a consistent number of claimants in their current locations, manpower reductions being actioned within planned timescales and other factors such as the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' current mileage rates, none of which is guaranteed and therefore such estimates are liable to fluctuate.

£ million

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Motor Mileage Allowance	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5
Commitment Bonus	1.3	2.7	5.9	7.9
Specialist Pay Reserve Banding	0.0	3.2	3.2	3.2
Recruitment and Retention Allowance (London)	0.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
Disturbance Allowance	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.7
Daily Subsistence (Overseas)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Get You Home (Early Years)	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.1
Get You Home (Seagoers)	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Incidental Expenses Allowance	18.5	20.2	20.2	20.2
Local Overseas Allowance	25.8	42.2	42.2	42.2
Food and Incidentals Allowance	9.8	10.7	10.7	10.7
Living Out Supplemental Rates of Local Overseas Allowance	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8

Armed Forces: Compensation

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be affected by the proposed increase in payments for ex-service personnel with mental health disorders. [37732]

Mr Robathan: The increased payments for service personnel with mental health disorders will be paid through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS).

As at 30 September 2010, 360 individuals had been awarded compensation for a mental health condition. As a result of the review and in line with all personnel who have previously claimed, those diagnosed with a mental health disorder suffered as a result of their service will receive an uplift to their compensation award.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Oliver Colvile: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation, with which organisations, he has had on the preparation of the Military Covenant Annual Report; and if he will make a statement. [37415]

Mr Robathan: We intend to consult key stakeholders, including the members of the External Reference Group (ERG), in the preparation of the Armed Forces Covenant report. The ERG is chaired by the Cabinet Office and attended by Government officials (Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Advocates across Whitehall), the Devolved Administrations, Professor Hew Strachan (Oxford University), service charities (COBSEO, RBL, SSAFA Forces Help and the War Widows Association of Great Britain) and the three Service Families Federations.

Armed Forces: Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reported break-ins to service personnel accommodation there have been in each year since 2008. [37333]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the number of break-ins recorded on the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) crime database, to Service personnel accommodation in each year since 2008.

Calendar year	*Number of break-ins (Burglaries)*
2008	193
2009	123
2010	142

The term "break-ins" has been interpreted to mean "burglaries". These figures include barrack room accommodation, cabins on ships and in accommodation blocks and married quarters (both occupied and unoccupied), including sheds and garages.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people living in *(a)* Brecon and Radnorshire constituency, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK have left the armed forces as a result of injury or disability sustained during their military service. [37523]

Mr Robathan: Data on the residential location of discharged service personnel are not held centrally.

886 Royal Navy personnel, 2,799 Army personnel and 424 RAF personnel were medically discharged with musculoskeletal disorders and injuries between 2005 and 2009. Not all of these would have sustained their conditions as a result of their military service.

Armed Forces: Location

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department maintains a budget for the relocation of members of the armed forces from base to base. [37532]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence does not maintain a specific central budget for relocations. However, top level budget (TLB) finance officers at the Headquarters of Fleet Command, Land Forces, Air Command and other TLBs monitor cost trends within their areas.

Armed Forces: Mental Health

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies his Department has commissioned on the mental health of serving and former armed forces personnel in the last five years. [37338]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has commissioned a number of high quality research projects which relate to the mental health of current and ex-service personnel. These include the prevalence of suicide in veterans, delayed-onset post traumatic stress disorder and evaluation of the NHS community veterans' mental health pilots.

Highly acclaimed large scale research by the King's Centre for Military Health Research (KCMHR) has been undertaken on the experiences of members of HM armed forces who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. A full list of papers that have been produced by KCMHR to date can be found on their website at:

http://www.kcl.ac.uk/kcmhr

and then click on the "publications" tab.

I shall place a copy of this list in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many new starters joined *(a)* the Armed Forces Pension Scheme, *(b)* Disablement Gratuity Scheme and *(c)* the Armed Forces Disablement Pension Scheme in each year from 1981 to 2000; [37601]

(2) how many individuals were in receipt of payments from the *(a)* Armed Forces Pension Scheme and *(b)* Armed Forces Disablement Scheme in each year from 1981 to 2000. [37724]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 1 February 2011]*: The Armed Forces Pension Scheme is the occupational pension scheme for the armed forces, including reserve forces. The War Pension Scheme provides no fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for injuries and death as a result of service, from the start of world war one until 5 April 2005. The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme has provided compensation since 6 April 2005.

The information sought on Armed Forces Pension Scheme payments is not held on the current IT system and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The War Pension Scheme payments information is only available from April 1995 onwards. The following table provides a breakdown of claims by the year in which the claim was cleared:

Claim awarded	Ongoing war pension	gratuity award	Nil award	Total
1995	3,495	2,155	4,230	9,885
1996	9,295	6,550	11,980	27,825
1997	5,290	6,055	8,900	20,250
1998	2,625	3,800	4,095	10,520
1999	2,775	4,485	3,675	10,935
2000	2,545	3,960	3,190	9,695
Total	26,030	27,005	36,075	89,110

Notes:

1. A gratuity award is a single payment where war disablement has been accepted as a result of service, but the disablement is assessed at less than 20%.
2. A nil award is where it is accepted that a particular disablement is as a result of service, but no monetary compensation is given because the resulting disablement is less than 20%.
3. All figures have been rounded to the nearest five, including totals.

As at 31 December 2000, there were a total of 235,785 disablement pensioners in receipt of war pensions under the War Pension Scheme. At the same date, there were a total of 64,130 gratuity awards recorded.

Payment figures for the years 1981-1999 are not available.

Armed Forces: Young People

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many 16 and 17-year-olds have died while on service or training in the armed forces since 1997; and what the *(a)* cause of death and *(b)* country where death took place was in each case. [36285]

Mr Robathan: It is not the practice of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to release full details on the cause of death and the country in which the death took place after the initial incident. The numbers involved are so small that individuals could be easily identifiable and as such this information could well be distressing to the relatives of the deceased, to whom the MOD has a residual duty of care. In the light of this, the information that can be provided is presented in the following table.

Armed forces personnel—deaths of 16 and 17-year-olds by cause, duty status, location, 1997-2010

		All		*UK*		*Rest of World*	
Cause of death	*All*	*On duty*	*Off duty*	*On duty*	*Off duty*	*On duty*	*Off duty*
Total	32	12	20	10	18	2	2
Disease related conditions	3	2	1	2	1	0	0
External causes of injury and poisoning:							
Accident	24	7	17	7	16	0	1
Death due to violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicide and open verdict	5	3	2	1	1	2	1

Departmental Marketing

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse was of the manufacture and distribution of Department-branded drinks coasters in the last financial year for which figures are available. [37245]

Mr Robathan: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what senior civil service staff moves there have been in his Department since May 2010; and what the *(a)* name and *(b)* salary is of each person (i) moving posts within and (ii) leaving his Department. [37021]

Mr Robathan: The total number of moves into and out of senior civil service posts since May 2010 is 66 as summarised in the following table.

Pay band	*Retirement/ resignation*	*Loan/ transfer out*	*Internal move*	*Temporary promotion*	*New joiners/ inward loan*
PB1	10	4	25	6	9
PB2	1	0	4	1	2
PB3	0	0	—	0	0
PB4	1	0	2	0	1

In line with central Government policy guidance adopted under the Transparency agenda, Departments are not releasing the names or banded salaries for those in the lowest (Pay Band 1) grade of the SCS, nor those at more senior levels who have not consented to the release of their names. In addition, the exact salary of any individual is personal data and as such cannot be released. The following is a link to the MOD Transparency page:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/Transparency/

The following table details moves at SCS Pay Band 1 since May 2010, using the job title rather than the name of the individual. For all the moves quoted I can confirm that the salary of individual officers fell within the SCS Pay Band 1 range of £58,200 to £117,750:

Pay Band I—Details of SCS movements from may 2010 to January 2011

Name of post	*Pay band*	*Former incumbent*	*Reason for change*	*New incumbent*	*Comment*
Head Products United Kingdom Hydrographic Office	PB1	Not disclosed	Left Department	Vacant	—
Chief Environmental and Safety Officer Defence Equipment and Support	PB1	Not disclosed	Left Department	Not disclosed	Transfer from HSE
Commercial Director Defence Support Group	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Joined Dept
Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Head Hydrographic Office	PB	—	New post	Not disclosed	Joined Dept
HD Capability Technology	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	Post discontinued	
Head of Cost Assurance Analysis	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	Not disclosed	Internal move
Director General Saudi Arabia Project Head Policy and Resources	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head of Deterrent Capability	PB1	Not disclosed	Loan DECC	Now filled by military	—
Deputy Command Secretary Land Forces	PB1	Not disclosed	Reverted to Band B	Not disclosed	Internal move
D Commercial Information Services and Systems	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	Not disclosed	Temp promotion
Armed Force Compensation Scheme Review	PB1	Not disclosed	Resignation	Post discontinued	—
Head of General Law Division	PB1	Not disclosed	Transfer to OGD	Not disclosed	Transfer in
Director Projects BMT Defence Services	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	—	Secondment opportunity not filled
Head of International Policy and Planning	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head of Veterans Services	PB1	Not disclosed	Reverted to Band B	Not disclosed	Inward Loan
Head Strategic Defence and Security Review Nuclear	PB1	Not disclosed	Transfer to CO	Vacant	—
Commercial Director NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency	PB1	Not disclosed	Retirement	—	NATO post not filled by UK
Head Secretariat Defence Equipment and Support	PB1	Not disclosed	Reverted to Band B	Not disclosed	Internal move
Private Secretary, Secretary of State	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head Commercial Assurance and Governance	PB1	Not declared	Before May	Not disclosed	Re-instatement
Head Financial Accounting	PB1	Not declared	Long term sick	Not disclosed	Return to MOD
Head Finance Submarines	PB1		New post	Not disclosed	Temp promotion
Head Programmes and Technology Group Centre of Excellence	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Temp promotion
Head Employment Framework	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Temp promotion
Head Finance Information Systems Services	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Temp promotion
Head Submarine Enterprise Performance Programmes	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Temp promotion
Director Science and Technology Chief Scientific Adviser, Strategic Adviser	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Inward loan
Director Transformation Ships	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Post discontinued	
Head Acquisition and Business Learning	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move

Pay Band 1—Details of SCS movements from may 2010 to January 2011

Name of post	*Pay band*	*Former incumbent*	*Reason for change*	*New incumbent*	*Comment*
Head of Boards Secretariat	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Assistant Chief of Staff J8 Permanent Joint HQ	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Internal move
Deputy Command Secretary Permanent Joint HQ	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head Technology Delivery	PB1	Not disclosed	Loan to Dstl	Post discontinued	—
Head Special Forces and Operational Legal Policy	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head of Assistance and assurance Defence Equipment and Support	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head Future submarines	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	—	Post not filled at SCS Level
Head Suppliers Relation Team	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	—	Post discontinued
Head of Defence Intelligence Strategic Assessments	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head Defence Intelligence Development and Support	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head Plans and Programmes Defence Equipment and Support	PB1	Was filled by military	—	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head International Acquisition Policy	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Vacant	
Chief Information Officer Corporate Service Systems	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Internal move
Head Financial Management Information Systems	PB1	Not disclosed	Internal move	Vacant	—
Head Finance, Combat Air	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Internal move
Special Adviser 1	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Joined Dept
Special Adviser 2	PB1	—	New post	Not disclosed	Joined Dept

The following table details moves at SCS Pay Band 2 and above, using names where consent was received under the Transparency agenda from individuals and roles where it was not, and salary details as published in departmental transparency data within £5,000 bands. It also provides details of the nature of the move:

Pay Band 2 and above—details of SCS movements from may 2010 to January 2011

Name of post	*Pay band*	*Former incumbent*	*Reason for change*	*Salary band (£)*	*New incumbent*	*Method of filling post*	*Salary band (£)*
Director Corporate Service Delivery Strategy	PB2	D Ball	Internal move	95,000 to 99,999	Post discontinued	—	
Director Human Resources, Defence Equipment and Support	PB2	—	Was filled by military	—	D Ball	Internal move	95,000 to 99,999
Minister (Defence Material) British Defence Staff Washington	PB2	P Turner	Internal move	85,000 to 89,999	W Jessett	Promotion	80,000 to 84,999
Director Commercial Services	PB2	Not declared	Prior to May	—	M Greatwich	Temp promotion	90,000 to 94,999
Director Research and Technology Operations	PB2	—	New Post	—	C Mace	Internal move	125,000 to 129,999
Director Centre Top Level Budget	PB2	D Stephens	Internal move	95,000 to 99,999	L Tulett	Inward loan	90,000 to 94,999
Director Financial Management	PB2	T Jagger	Internal move	125,000 to 129,999	D Williams	Return to MOD	90,000 to 94,999
Chief of Staff Defence Equipment and Support	PB2	J Lycett	Reverted to PB1	80,000 to 84,999		Merged with another post	
Command Secretary (Resources) Land Forces	PB2	N Evans	Retirement	100,000 to 104,999	D Stephens	Internal move	95,000 to 99,999
Command Secretary (Secretarial) Land Forces	PB2	D Johnson	Reverted to PB1	80,000 to 84,999	P Turner	Internal move	85,000 to 89,999
Chief Defence Material	PB3 (FTA)	—	Was filled by military	—	B Gray	Joined Dept	220,000 to 224,999

Pay Band 2 and above—details of SCS movements from may 2010 to January 2011

Name of post	*Pay band*	*Former incumbent*	*Reason for change*	*Salary band (£)*	*New incumbent*	*Method of filling post*	*Salary band (£)*
2nd Permanent Under Secretary	PB4	U Brennan	Internal Promotion	155,000 to 159,999	J Day	Internal promotion	155,000 to 159,999
Permanent Under Secretary	PB4	B Jeffrey	Retirement	174,999 to 180,000	U Brennan	Internal promotion	180,000 to 184,999

Departmental Visits Abroad

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what overseas visits he undertook in the last six months; what the *(a)* country and place visited, *(b)* date, *(c)* meetings attended during the visit, *(d)* names of other individuals attending such meetings and *(e)* purpose of each meeting was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [37793]

Dr Fox: The information is being collated. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the likely effect of the conclusions of the Redfern Inquiry into examination of tissue from nuclear industry workers on his Department's policy on nuclear test veterans. [37726]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 1 February 2011]:* The Redfern Inquiry Report makes clear that the Atomic Weapons Establishment and the Ministry of Defence's involvement in these cases is believed to have been very limited, and, in most cases, was primarily to arrange for analysis of tissue samples at the request of individual coroners. It is our view that the findings of the Inquiry are not relevant to broader policy on nuclear test veterans, as the findings relate solely to the analysis of tissue samples from up to 15 individuals compared to some 28,000 that took part in the tests. The Redfern Report does not record any of the analyses as being productive in determining the cause of death. We do not believe that there are any wider conclusions that can be drawn that would be relevant to the nuclear test veterans' situation as a group or to any individual appeals currently before the War Pensions Tribunal.

Falkland Islands: Armed Forces

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what ability the armed forces will retain to re-take the Falkland Islands in the event of their occupation during the next 10 years. [36589]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State for Defence's comments during debates in the House on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 787, and 4 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1071-72. We maintain robust contingency plans for times of crisis which would draw on a range of capabilities that may be appropriate for such an operation. However, I am not prepared to go into detail.

War Pensions

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people living in *(a)* Brecon and Radnorshire constituency, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK are in receipt of (i) a War Pension and (ii) payments from the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [37522]

Mr Robathan: The War Pension scheme (WPS) provides no-fault compensation to former service personnel and their dependants for illness, injury or death as a result of service from the start of the first world war in 1914 up until 5 April 2005.

As at 30 September 2010, 265 individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire, 9,895 individuals in Wales and 162,575 individuals in the UK were receiving an ongoing pension under the WPS.

The Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Compensation scheme (AFCS) was introduced on 6 April 2005 to provide compensation to service personnel and their dependants for illness, injury or death as a result of service from this date.

As at 30 September 2010, fewer than five individuals in the parliamentary constituency of Brecon and Radnorshire, 35 individuals in Wales and 485 individuals in the UK were receiving either guaranteed income payments (GIP) or survivor's guaranteed income payments (SGIP) under the AFCS.

Notes:

1. Guaranteed income payment (GIP)—regular payment to service person to provide a continuous income stream.
2. Survivor's guaranteed income payment (SGIP)—regular payment to surviving dependant(s) to provide continuous financial support.
3. All figures have rounded to the nearest five.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 February 2011

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Regulations

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what regulations his Department has introduced since 6 May 2010. [37367]

John Penrose: The following regulations sponsored by the Department have been made since 6 May 2010:

The Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) (Amendment) Order 2010;

The Olympics, Paralympics and London Olympics Association Rights (Infringement Proceedings) Regulations 2010;

The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Order 2010;

The Legislative Reform (Licensing) (Interim Authority Notices etc) Order 2010;

The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces (Amendment) (No.2) etc. Regulations 2010;

The Football Spectators (Seating) Order 2010;

The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) Order 2010;

The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (No.2) Order 2010;

The Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (No.3) Order 2010;

The Audiovisual Media Services (Codification) Regulations 2010;

The Welsh Language (Gambling and Licensing Form) Regulations 2010;

The Apportionment of Money in the National Lottery Distribution Fund Order 2010;

The Public Lending Right Scheme 1982 (Commencement of Variation) Order 2011.

Internet: Devon

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of households in Devon without access to the internet. [36169]

Mr Vaizey: I have not made a specific estimate. Almost all households in the UK can access the internet through one of a variety of mechanisms—broadband connection, dial-up connection via the phone line, mobile or satellite.

Broadband Delivery UK estimates that about 950,000 households in the UK as a whole have access to internet connections capable of 512 Kbps or less.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects the board of the Olympic Park Legacy Company to reach a decision on the future of the Olympic Stadium. [38179]

Hugh Robertson: The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) is currently seeking clarifications on the final offers submitted by the two bidding consortiums. Once these clarifications have been received and the evaluation of bids is complete, the OPLC Board will meet to reach a decision. The decision will then be subject to approval by the founder members.

Public Libraries: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on library closures in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency. [37984]

Mr Vaizey: Local authorities are not obliged to consult the Secretary of State about plans for their library service. However the Department has received correspondence from library users in areas of the north-west where library closures have been proposed. The hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) secured an adjournment debate on 25 January about the future of library services in which she and other hon. Members from the north-west region spoke about the library service provided to their constituents.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Police

Ian Swales: To ask the Attorney-General whether he has plans to review the guidance to police officers and Crown prosecutors issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions. [38025]

The Attorney-General: The Director's Guidance on Charging is issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) under section 37A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. The guidance sets out the arrangements prescribed by the DPP for the joint working of police officers and prosecutors during the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases.

The 4th Edition of the Director's Guidance on Charging was signed and issued by the DPP on 21 January 2011. The guidance is being rolled out in CPS and police force areas, and implementation is expected to be completed by 30 June 2011. Until such time that the new guidance is implemented, the 3rd Edition of the Director's Guidance on Charging remains in force.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Responsibilities

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to give effect to the Government's big society initiative since May 2010. [35342]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is committed to supporting the principles of the big society.

For example, in response to public concerns about the fear of litigation, in October 2010 the Department for Transport published straightforward guidance for households and traders who wish to act in a neighbourly way by clearing snow and ice from paths in front of property, pavements and other public spaces. It was clear during the recent spell of severe winter weather that the overwhelming majority of people want to take social action in a common sense way, whilst showing neighbourliness and generosity of spirit in these circumstances.

Furthermore, the recently published Local Transport White Paper, encourages local authorities to form greater partnership with the voluntary, community, and social enterprises sector and citizens in the design and delivery of local sustainable transport solutions. This is intended to lead to greater community empowerment, the opening up of public services and to further the promotion of social action to achieve the local outcomes people want.

Official Visits: Dorset

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for an official visit to Dorset. [36419]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* I do not have any current plans to visit Dorset in my official capacity.

Driving: Licensing

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* amend the rules for issuing Group 2 medical licences to drivers with insulin-dependent diabetes in line with EU Directive 2009/113/EC and *(b)* permit insulin-dependent diabetics to obtain a Group 2 licence where, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner, their condition is properly controlled and they pose no risk to themselves or other road users. [37927]

Mike Penning: The EU Directive 2009/113/EC proposes that the medical licensing standards for Group 2 (bus and lorry) drivers who have insulin treated diabetes can be relaxed. Decisions on implementing any change to the current UK licensing standards will be taken only when the responses to the public consultation announced today have been analysed.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contribution he has made to the Government's review of its strategy on human trafficking. [36582]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* None at this stage. Home Office Ministers have the lead on the development of the Government strategy on human trafficking, and I will contribute when the Home Secretary seeks Cabinet colleagues' comments in the normal way.

Railways: Franchising

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment will be undertaken of the availability of other forms of public transport before any rail services are ceased under new franchises; [35951]

(2) whether an equality impact assessment will be required to be undertaken before any rail services are ceased under new franchises. [35952]

Mrs Villiers: The Railways Act 2005 stipulates that if any rail services are to be closed then both an Equalities Assessment and a business case are required. The Equalities Assessment includes consideration of alternative modes of transport. Full guidance can be found on the Department's website at:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/legislation/sgd/railwaysclosuresguidancea/railwaysclosuresguidance.pdf

Railways: Overcrowding

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what will be the maximum time a passenger should have to stand on an intercity rail journey under the new franchises. [35948]

Mrs Villiers: The Government's aim is that all intercity passengers should get a seat (unless they are making a short journey of less than 20 minutes). Bidders for west coast will be asked to submit credible plans for achieving this objective, based on the passenger numbers they plan to carry over the life of the franchise.

Railways: Vandalism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on steps to deal with incidents of vandalism on the rail network. [35436]

Mrs Villiers: We are committed to combating crime, antisocial behaviour and the fear of crime wherever it occurs in the transport system. Route crime can best be tackled by all sections of the rail industry working together. The British Transport police liaises with Network Rail, local authorities, train operating companies and local schools to reduce the incidence of vandalism on the rail network.

Sea Rescue: Northern Ireland

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the potential effects of closure of the coastguard station in Northern Ireland. [37747]

Mike Penning: The proposals to restructure HM Coastguard are currently out to public consultation and include an option either to close the Belfast Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) or to make it a daytime only operation.

Neither option will impact on our ability to co-ordinate search and rescue (SAR); implementing the proposals will mean that this can be done from any location.

In terms of the effect on staff, if a decision was made to close Belfast, staff could apply for vacancies at a new Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) or a sub-Centre, the wider Coastguard, or the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Opportunities would also be given to apply to the wider civil service. Only after all these opportunities were exhausted, would the redundancy be considered. If a decision was made to make Belfast

MRCC a sub-centre, staff would be given the same options, including the option to apply for a post in the same location.

West Coast Railway Line

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the likely effect of technological changes to business working on the forecast demand for passenger travel on the west coast main line to 2035. [36105]

Mrs Villiers: In so far as evidence is available on the impact of technology on rail demand, this is included in any demand forecasts. Research on new and evolving influences on rail demand is carried out on an ongoing basis by the Department for Transport and the rail industry's Passenger Demand Forecasting Council.

Forecasting demand to 2026 for the west coast main line will be a matter for the bidders on the new franchise. As part of its evaluation process, the Department will review any evidence and assumptions included within the bids.

West Coast Railway Line: Franchising

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage passengers to engage in the consultation process on the west coast main line franchise. [35997]

Mrs Villiers: Over 300 e-mails have been sent to stakeholders with the details of the Intercity West Coast Consultation Document. Four stakeholder events have been organised during February for Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and London and invitations have been issued. A stakeholder briefing document will be produced after the close of the consultation that summarises the responses received.

SCOTLAND

Economic Growth

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 453W, on economic growth, whether he has requested the Chancellor of the Exchequer to commission research on future economic growth in Scotland. [37907]

David Mundell: Returning all parts of the UK to sustainable economic growth is the Government's overriding priority and it is at the heart of the Government's agenda for this Parliament. Building on announcements in the spending review and Budget, the Government are undertaking a growth review to examine what each part of Government can do to support growth and investment. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility's updated fiscal and economic forecast shows sustainable growth for the UK as a whole in each of the next five years while external forecasts for the Scottish economy predict growth in the Scottish economy of between 1.1% and 2.2% for the coming year.

Forestry Commission

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effects in Scotland of proposed changes to the Forestry Commission in England and Wales. [37481]

David Mundell: The Secretary of State for Scotland and I have regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on a range of issues. Forestry is a devolved matter, and the UK Government consider it unlikely that changes to the Public Forest Estate in England would have any consequences for Scottish forestry. We will of course keep the issue under review and will continue our discussions with the Scottish Government.

President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions since his appointment he has met the President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities. [38095]

Michael Moore: Since my appointment I have been in contact with many people and organisations, including COSLA, on matters important to Scotland.

WALES

Departmental Regulations

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what regulations her Department has introduced since 6 May 2010; [37364]

(2) what regulations her Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37389]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office has brought forward eight statutory instruments since 6 May 2010. None of these place burdens on business. The instruments relate to the referendum next month on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales, the elections to the Assembly in May 2011, the legislative competence of the Assembly, the appointment of the chief inspector for education and training in Wales and the use of personal data by elected representatives.

The Wales Office has repealed one statutory instrument since 6 May 2010, relating to the disqualification of candidates at the Assembly elections in 2007.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties were sold by local authorities in each region in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [38032]

Andrew Stunell: Figures on the number of sales of social housing stock by local authorities are published on the DCLG website in the form of live tables on social housing sales to sitting tenants:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/socialhousingsales/livetables/

Decentralisation and Localism Bill

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation he has undertaken with the construction industry in relation to the provisions of the Localism Bill that relate to planning powers. [37449]

Greg Clark: There have been discussions with a wide range of groups on the Localism Bill. The Department has engaged with groups such as the Confederation of British Industry, the Construction Products Association, the Federation of Master Builders and a broad range of firms from the development and house building sector.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders: Bromsgrove

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Bromsgrove constituency were subject to an empty dwellings management order in each year since 2007. [38547]

Andrew Stunell: There have been no empty dwelling management order applications or authorisations in the Bromsgrove area.

Government: Assets

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 306W, on Government: assets, which clauses in the Localism Bill enable a community right to *(a)* challenge and *(b)* buy assets owned by central Government. [37860]

Andrew Stunell: Clauses 66 to 70 in the Localism Bill make provision for the community right to challenge. This is a right for voluntary and community bodies, local authority employees looking to deliver the service as a mutual, and parish councils, to express an interest in running a local authority service.

Clauses 71 to 88 of the Localism Bill provide for the listing of Assets of Community Value, and for a window of opportunity to give community interest groups a greater opportunity to bid to buy such assets. Clause 72 enables the Secretary of State, and Welsh Ministers in Wales, to make provision which will determine whether a building or land is of community value. This definition will be set down in secondary legislation following public consultation commencing in early 2011. Central Government assets which meet this definition will be covered.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government took to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2011; and if he will make a statement. [38049]

Andrew Stunell: Holocaust Memorial Day 2011 was marked at over 500 local events around the United Kingdom, as well as at the national commemoration in the Royal Horticultural Halls which the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr Pickles) addressed on behalf of the Government.

The Government supported the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to organise the national commemoration and its associated educational programme, and to encourage local events. We have indicated that we will continue to meet the costs of Holocaust Memorial Day for a minimum of a further two years, during which time my Department will assist the trust to optimise its business model so that it is able to continue its crucial work in the most effective way possible.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to reduce carbon emissions in new properties. [37968]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to progressive improvements in the energy efficiency requirements for new homes and to enabling zero carbon homes from 2016 and non-domestic buildings from 2019. The Government are working with industry and others on the standards for zero carbon homes. The energy performance standards in the building regulations which apply to new buildings were strengthened last year and the Government are making plans for further changes in 2013.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of emissions allow a property to be classified as a zero carbon home. [37978]

Grant Shapps: The Government believe that, to qualify as zero carbon, new homes should not add extra carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere. In delivering this commitment the Government have already confirmed that this will include an ambitious requirement for energy efficiency in the fabric of new homes. In addition to this the Government have commissioned further work from the zero carbon hub on the right levels of on-site reductions and we are awaiting the full findings of this work. It is widely accepted that for the majority of new homes it is not feasible to deal with all emissions on-site; given this, Government are working with industry to develop off-site mechanisms to deliver additional cost effective carbon savings.

Housing: Construction

Jack Dromey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of house building following the announcement of the abolition of regional housing targets. [31636]

Andrew Stunell: From April 2011 the New Homes Bonus, will match fund the additional council tax raised for new houses and properties brought back into use, with an additional amount for affordable houses, for the following six years.

It is the market that determines how many houses are actually built. Regional housing targets have been ineffective. 2009 saw the lowest peacetime level of house starts since 1924. We are replacing targets with incentives which will be far more effective for the delivery of new houses. The number of starts in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 of 2010 has risen compared to comparable quarters of 2009.

Full details of the scheme design were published on 12 November and can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus

A consultation on the scheme design closed on 24 December. We will publish the final scheme design in due course.

Localism Bill

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library copies of responses to the consultation on Part 6 of the Localism Bill. [37416]

Grant Shapps: The Government published "Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing" on 22 November, setting out a range of proposed reforms and seeking views; the consultation period closed on 17 January and approximately 700 responses have been received. A summary of the responses to consultation will be published on the Department's website shortly. We intend to do so earlier than the three month deadline from end of consultation set out in the code of practice on consultation. We will place a copy in the Library of the House. Individual responses will be made available on request, unless respondents have asked that they be treated as confidential.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Explanatory Notes to the Localism Bill, paragraph 463, what the evidential basis is for the calculation that the enactment of the Bill will create an estimated charge of £21 million per year on local authorities. [38024]

Greg Clark: The Government are committed to the new burdens doctrine, have considered the costs to local authorities accordingly and will provide funding in the usual ways. The figure presented in the explanatory notes is provisional, but the evidence base behind costs and benefits to different groups, including local authorities, can be found in the impact assessments which are available on the Department for Communities and Local Government website and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/

Private Rented Housing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has plans to encourage local authorities to adopt accreditation schemes for private rented sector landlords. [37921]

Grant Shapps: My Department is supportive of all mechanisms by which local authorities can seek to help local landlords improve the service they offer to their tenants. Accreditation schemes can be an effective way to do this. But we do not think that it is the role of central Government to prescribe to local authorities how best to manage their relationship with private landlords in their area.

Public Sector: Carbon Emissions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the EU target for all new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities to be near-zero carbon from 31 December 2018; what assessment he has made of UK progress toward the target; and if he will make a statement. [37909]

Andrew Stunell: The recast of the energy performance of buildings directive includes a requirement that all new buildings occupied and owned by public authorities after 31 December 2018 shall be nearly zero energy buildings. The recast must be implemented by 8 July 2013 and we will consult on its implementation in due course.

Social Rented Housing: Sales

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many residential properties have been sold by registered social landlords in each region in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [38030]

(2) how many residential properties were disposed of by each registered social landlord by auction or open market sale in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [38031]

Andrew Stunell: Figures on the number of sales of social housing stock by registered social landlords are given in the following table:

Units sold

	Number
2005-06	18,147
2006-07	21,768
2007-08	20,252
2008-09	14,697
2009-10	15,891

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return. Part K lines 4, 9, 13 (columns 1 and 2), 22 and 23 (2006-07 to 2009-10) Part K lines 5, 8, 11 (columns 1 and 2), 21 and 22 (2005-06).

These data include sales of properties by registered social landlords through right to buy, right to acquire, shared ownership initial sales, social homebuy and disposals to the private sector. Sales to another registered provider are not included. A regional breakdown of these sales by registered social landlords is not available nor are figures on whether properties are sold via auction or open market.

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has plans to bring forward proposals to improve Tenancy Deposit Schemes. [37922]

Grant Shapps: My Department will be working closely with external partners to refine and improve the operation of insurance-based tenancy deposit schemes as part of our work to ensure schemes are in place beyond March 2013, when the current schemes' service concession agreements come to an end.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Pay

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Prime Minister what information his Office holds on the number of sub-contracted staff servicing his Office who were not paid at a rate equivalent to or above the London living wage in the latest period for which figures are available. [34811]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr Maude), on 31 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 604W.

Rupert Murdoch

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* staff of 10 Downing street have met (i) Rupert Murdoch, (ii) James Murdoch, (iii) Rebekah Wade and (iv) other individuals representing (A) News International and (B) News Corporation and (C) BSkyB since 4 November 2010. [34139]

The Prime Minister: A list of official meetings by Ministers with external organisations is published quarterly and a list of official hospitality at Chequers is published annually. James Murdoch and his wife received official hospitality at Chequers on 7 November 2010. I have met Rebekah Wade and James Murdoch at social occasions. Decisions on the BSkyB merger are entirely a matter for the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for South West Surrey (Mr Hunt). The Prime Minister has no role or involvement. I was not party to the Secretary of State's decision ahead of his announcement on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 3WS. Staff of 10 Downing street have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Trade: Treaties

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what his policy is on the required *(a)* scope and *(b)* parameters of the proposed Arms Trade Treaty; [37684]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of including brokering activities within the scope of transfers regulated by the proposed Arms Trade Treaty; [37685]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of including small arms ammunition on the list of equipment to be regulated by the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. [37686]

Alistair Burt: The Government are committed to securing a robust and effective arms trade treaty that meets its foreign policy priorities of safeguarding Britain's national security and building prosperity. The precise content of an arms trade treaty is currently the subject of a UN negotiation which concludes in 2012; the Government continue to develop their negotiating position ahead of the next Preparatory Committee meeting commencing on 28 February 2011; it is therefore not appropriate for me to specify the detail of the UK's negotiating position at this stage.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will include his plans for the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations in his forthcoming Building Stability Overseas strategy. [37687]

Alistair Burt: The flow of illicit weapons into conflict affected and fragile states is an issue of significant concern. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence are currently consulting widely on the Building Stability Overseas Strategy, including with external experts and key partners, before confirming the final content.

British Overseas Territories

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requirement there is on the Secretary of State to consider the effect on British Overseas Territories of legislation enacted by Parliament. [37511]

Mr Bellingham: There is no constitutional or statutory requirement on a Secretary of State to consider the effect of legislation enacted by Parliament on British Overseas Territories. However, as a matter of practice, at the time of drafting a Bill consideration is given to whether it: (i) should apply directly to the Overseas Territories; (ii) should contain a provision enabling it to be extended, modified as necessary, by Order in Council to them, or (iii) has no relevance to them and need not apply or have the possibility of future extension to them.

Legislation which does not apply directly or has not been extended by Order in Council to the Overseas Territories has no application to those territories.

Departmental Consultants

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on consultancy since May 2010. [34668]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs consultants only when the necessary skills are unavailable from permanent FCO staff. We apply a strict value for money test to all consultancy use in line with central Government guidelines.

The FCO spent £11.98 million on consultancy services between May and November 2010 (December 2010 data are not yet available). This was spent on practical projects to improve the FCO's global operations and provide better value for money for the taxpayer. It funded in particular the provision of the external technical expertise necessary to develop better IT systems and a more modern global estate. A significant proportion supported the Echo project, which is designed to deliver better and cheaper global IT services to the FCO and other Government Departments and save the taxpayer up to £90 million.

Diplomatic Service: Domestic Service

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomatic missions to the UK have asserted diplomatic immunity against investigations of the *(a)* employment status and *(b)* immigration status of domestic staff in each of the last three years. [37739]

Mr Bellingham: We are not aware of any such case during the last three years.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* political unrest and *(b)* disruption of internet and mobile phone communications in Egypt; if he will discuss with his Egyptian counterpart the merits of facilitating peaceful protest and maintaining freedom of speech and assembly; and if he will make a statement. [37915]

Alistair Burt: We are gravely concerned by the ongoing political unrest in Egypt and condemn the violence that is taking place in Cairo. If the regime were shown to be sponsoring or tolerating this violence it would be completely unacceptable. The scenes underline the need for political reform and for that process to be accelerated.

Our embassy has been closely monitoring the situation, which has become increasingly dangerous with some areas of Cairo, Alexandria and Suez deteriorating into lawlessness. We regret the loss of life and continue to call for restraint on all sides. We have urged the Egyptian Government to avoid at all costs the use of violence against unarmed civilians and for demonstrators to be able to exercise their rights peacefully.

Restrictions on freedom of expression, including the closure of internet access and mobile phone services, have only fuelled the anger of demonstrators and we have called on the Egyptian Government to lift those restrictions urgently.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Iran on the protection of human rights of people of the Baha'i faith in that country. [37587]

Alistair Burt: In 2010, I discussed human rights issues with the Iranian embassy on five occasions, including the unacceptable persecution of the Baha'is. Our embassy in Tehran also continues to raise this directly with the Iranian authorities, most recently on 12 December 2010.

We will continue to remind Iran of the international commitments it has freely signed up to. We will also urge the Iranian Government to cease its harassment of the Baha'i minority and to respect the rights of other minority groups.

Kashmir

Craig Whittaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Kashmir, for what reasons his policy is that is not for the UK to mediate in seeking a lasting resolution to the situation in Kashmir. [37417]

Alistair Burt: We recognise the importance of finding a lasting solution to the situation in Kashmir but it is not for the UK to prescribe a solution nor to mediate in finding one. This has been the policy of successive British Governments and the history of the issue suggests it must be for India and Pakistan to resolve, taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people without any mediation by the UK.

North Africa: Human Rights

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department made representations to the governments of *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* Tunisia and *(c)* Algeria on human rights issues in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [37740]

Alistair Burt: The UK holds annual Strategic Dialogues with Egypt and Algeria at which a range of issues of concern to both sides are discussed, including human rights. Crucially, at the third Strategic Dialogue with Egypt this January, we raised our concerns about the 2010 parliamentary elections, in particular about media restrictions and cases of electoral irregularities. The issue of human rights also forms part of ongoing discussions between our embassies and the host Governments in the three countries concerned.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), addressed the issue during his visit to Egypt in November last year and I have personally raised the subject of human rights during my recent visits to Algeria and Tunisia as well as in my meeting with the Tunisian ambassador to London following his arrival in October 2010.

At the European level, the issue of human rights has been a core component of negotiations with Tunisia with respect to its application for advanced status with the EU.

The UK actively raises human rights concerns in the UN, including in the Human Rights Council. In the case of Egypt, the UK raised its concerns during the adoption of Egypt's Universal Periodic Review in June 2010.

Private Military and Security Companies: Regulation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 59WS, on private military and security companies, what *(a)* process and *(b)* timetable he plans to follow to appoint a trade association to monitor and audit compliance of a UK code of conduct for private military and security companies; and (i) by what means and (ii) against what baseline he intends to review his policy two years after its implementation to assess whether standards have been raised. [37711]

Mr Bellingham: In December 2010, two trade associations submitted proposals to fulfil the role of monitoring and auditing compliance of national standards for the UK Private Military and Security Company industry. These have been reviewed by Whitehall officials and proposals will shortly be considered by National Security Council members and thereafter announced to this House. At that stage we will provide further details, including how we will monitor compliance with the national code of conduct and establish the baseline for the two-year policy review.

TREASURY

Banks: Pay

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the level of executive remuneration in publicly-owned banks. [38096]

Mr Hoban: The Government have taken robust action to tackle unacceptable bonuses. Following agreement in the Capital Requirements Directive, measures taken include the revised Financial Services Authority (FSA) remuneration code, introduced on 1 January 2011 and covering all bonuses payable in the coming bonus round. Further, the new FSA remuneration disclosure rules were also introduced on 1 January 2011, with initial disclosures starting this year and covering remuneration paid in the 2010 financial year. In addition we have introduced the bank levy, higher capital and liquidity requirements, stronger resolution arrangements, the Independent Banking Commission and we continue to investigate the costs and benefits of a financial activities tax.

We have made it clear to the banks in which the Government have a stake that they should have a smaller bonus pool than last year and that they should be a back-marker in the industry.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism other than monitoring take-up he evaluates the effectiveness of HM Revenue and Customs' cycle to work scheme. [38097]

Mr Gauke: HM Revenue and Customs administers the tax relief available when employers offer cycle to work schemes. The effectiveness of the relief is monitored through contact with employers' and industry representatives and in discussion with officials from other Government Departments.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent representations he has received on the differential between duty levels applied to petrol and diesel; and if he will make a statement; [37335]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the fuel duty rates due to come into force on 1 April 2011 on road users in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [37341]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 1001W, and to the answers given on 17 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 576W and 24 January 2011, *Official Report,* column 117W, to the hon. Member for Glasgow North East (Mr Bain)

The same rate of duty applies to petrol and diesel intended for road use.

Motorists are affected by a range of measures to tackle the deficit and support growth including fuel duty. In the June Budget the Government asked the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) to undertake an assessment of the effect of oil price fluctuations on the public finances. The OBR published its report on 14 September. The Government are considering the OBR's assessment.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether implementation of his proposals to reform fuel duty will be revenue-neutral. [37560]

Justine Greening: Decisions about tax policy are a matter for the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Excise Duties: Wines

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of wine fraud in the latest period for which figures are available; and what recent steps he has taken to mitigate wine fraud. [37280]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 31 January 2011]:* No specific estimate is made of the level of fraud in wine. When the alcohol strategy was renewed last year it was extended to address all categories of alcoholic drinks and not just spirits, the only drinks covered by the previous strategy. In the first nine months from implementation of the renewed strategy HMRC and UKBA have seized over 1.8 million litres of illicit wine. The 'Tackling Alcohol Fraud' strategy which was implemented from 1 April 2010 addresses fraud in all alcoholic drinks including wine.

Financial Inclusion Fund: Halifax

Mrs Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Halifax have received assistance from the Financial Inclusion Fund in the last 12 months. [37103]

Mr Hoban: The Financial Inclusion Fund supports a number of different projects. Data from the projects are not reported in a way that allows us to measure the impact of every project in a specific area.

Data for the Financial Inclusion debt advice project show that, over a 12-month period (1 January to 31 December 2010), 139 debt advice clients were seen by debt advisers based in Halifax.

Data for the Financial Inclusion Growth Fund show that Calderdale Credit Union, which covers Halifax, made 2,494 affordable loans to the value of £1,601,065 over the same 12-month period.

The Government are working closely with the Consumer Financial Education Body (soon to be known as the Money Advice Service) to take a preventative approach—so that consumers can better manage their own finances and avoid getting into unsustainable debt. This includes creating Britain's first free national financial advice service, including an annual financial healthcheck.

Income Tax: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Sunderland were in each income tax band in the most recent year for which figures are available. [36412]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the number of taxpayers in the local government district of Sunderland, categorised by their highest marginal tax rate for 2007-08, the latest year available, are provided in the following table.

Number of taxpayers in Sunderland

Tax year 2007-08	*Number*[1]
Starting rate	17,000
Basic rate	120,000
Higher rate	8,000
All taxpayers	144,000

[1] Rounded to the nearest thousand

Notes:

1. Table shows number of taxpayers in the local government district of Sunderland by their highest marginal tax rate.
2. Estimates at each rate do not sum to the total due to rounding.

Source:

Survey of Personal Incomes, 2007-08

See:

http://www.hmrc.gov,uk/stats/income_distribution/inc-distribution-note.pdf

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of people in Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency who will no longer pay income tax as a result of the increase in the personal allowance from 5 April 2011; [38099]

(2) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of people paying income tax at the 40 per cent. rate with effect from 5 April 2011 in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency and *(c)* each other parliamentary constituency. [38100]

Mr Gauke: In the June 2010 Budget, it was estimated that 880,000 persons would be taken out of tax in the United Kingdom as a result of the £1,000 increase in the personal allowance in 2011-12, of which an estimated 71,000 are in Scotland.

The number of taxpayers paying income tax at the 40 per cent rate in 2011-12 in Scotland is projected to be 281,000, an increase of 47,000 compared with the published projection for 2010-11 (available on the HMRC website at the following address):

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-2.pdf

These estimates are based on 2007-08 Survey of Personal Incomes data projected to 2010-11 and 2011-12 in line with the June 2010 Budget assumptions.

It not possible to produce reliable estimates for parliamentary constituencies due to small sample sizes at these levels of geography.

Loans

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people who use payday loans in each (i) region, (ii) local authority and (iii) constituency. [37502]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

This Department collects information from the YouGov Debt Track survey on the number and proportion of people both using payday loans and those that have applied for payday loans in the last six months.

In October 2010, the most recent survey, it was estimated that less than 1% of the population currently had a payday loan and that approximately 0.5% had applied for a payday loan in the previous six months. The sample size of this survey (UK wide) is around 3,000—therefore it would be statistically unreliable to disaggregate the number of people who either hold or applied for a payday loan to a regional level (or beyond that, to local authority or constituency level).

Consumer Focus reviewed the payday loan market in 2010. They estimated that around 1.2 million adults took out a payday loan in 2009. They estimated the size of the market at £1.2 billion with each payday loan being worth on average £292.

Personal Savings

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people in each (i) region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) constituency who have no savings. [37507]

Mr Hoban: The Wealth and Assets Survey includes data on the distribution of net household financial wealth by region. Results for 2006-08, the latest year for which data are available, can be found in the Wealth in Great Britain: Main results report, by ONS. Data are not available for breakdowns at local authority and constituency levels within this report.

Sovereign Support Grant

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 756W, on the Sovereign Support Grant, whether he plans to introduce the primary legislation to establish the Sovereign Support Grant before the summer adjournment. [37309]

Justine Greening: I have nothing to add to my previous answer.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Devolution

Mark Durkan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has for the future of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government and the devolved Administrations. [34289]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Memorandum of Understanding was last updated in March 2010. It is kept under annual review by the Government and the devolved Administrations through the Joint Ministerial Committee on Devolution.

Electoral Register: Social Security Benefits

Guto Bebb: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will assess the likely effects on the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register of requiring benefit claimants to be on the electoral register to be eligible for benefits. [37785]

Mr Harper: The Government have no current plans to conduct such an assessment. However, we are committed to speeding up the implementation of individual electoral registration and later this year as part of that we will be trialling data matching—comparing the electoral register against other public databases to find individuals missing from the register and allow EROs to encourage them to register. If these trials are successful we will roll data matching out nationally, which will improve the accuracy and completeness of the electoral register.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Philip Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which staff he has appointed to advise him on strategy from outside the civil service since June 2010; and what their *(a)* areas of responsibility and *(b)* dates of appointment are. [37603]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have appointed a number of special advisers who advise me on a range of issues including strategy. Details of these appointments are published on the Cabinet Office's website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Telephone Services

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the average number of calls per *(a)* day, *(b)* week and *(c)* month to his Department's 0800 2888 777 number for contacting Atos in relation to work capability assessments. [37917]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare has confirmed that the average number of inbound calls relating to work capability assessments are:

(a)—2,002 per day

(b)—14,014 per week

(c)—56,056 per month

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff responsible for answering his Department's 0800 2888 777 number for contacting Atos in relation to work capability assessments were absent *(a)* on annual leave and *(b)* due to illness on 18 January 2011. [37918]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare has confirmed that on 18 January 2011 there were:

(a)—six full time equivalent (FTE's) on annual leave which equates to approximately 10.5% absence; and

(b)—two FTE's on sick leave which equates to approximately 3.5% absence.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed to answer his Department's 0800 2888 777 number for contacting Atos in relation to work capability assessments. [37920]

Chris Grayling: Atos Healthcare has confirmed that they currently have 64 staff which equates to 57 full time equivalent's employed in the activity on answering and making calls in the Virtual Contact Centre.

Employment Schemes: Alcoholic Drinks and Drugs

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he plans to establish separate work programmes for those with a history of alcohol and drug misuse from 31 March 2011; [37981]

(2) if he will ensure that contractors for the Work Programme are required to achieve a minimum success rate for placing into work those with a history of alcohol and drug misuse. [37982]

Chris Grayling: This Government will offer every support for people to choose full recovery as an achievable way out of dependency—so that they get off drugs and alcohol for good.

Where appropriate, customers with a history of drug or alcohol dependency will receive personalised support through the Work Programme, the providers of which will need to work closely with the drug and alcohol treatment sector while demonstrating that they have the specialist expertise needed to deliver employment services to this group. In the interim the Government will ensure that adequate support is in place for customers to ensure a smooth transition to the Work Programme.

In addition, the Government are giving separate consideration as to how to most effectively support people in drug and alcohol treatment into sustained employment. In particular, it has set out its ambition to pilot the use of payment by results to incentivise the drug treatment system to improve the delivery of sustained recovery outcomes, which will include employment.

Minimum performance standards will apply to all Work Programme customer groups, including the groups for harder-to-help customers. However, there will be no specific minimum success rates for placing into work those customers with a history of drug and alcohol misuse.

Housing Benefit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate was made of expenditure from the public purse on housing benefit in each year to 2015 as part of the *(a)* Autumn forecast and *(b)* June 2010 Budget forecast. [28744]

Steve Webb: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure forecasts, Great Britain

£ million (nominal)

	Autumn forecast (a)	*June 2010 Budget (b)*
2010-11	21,477	21,536
2011-12	22,002	21,928
2012-13	22,022	21,830
2013-14	21,361	21,220
2014-15	21,912	21,909
2015-16	22,553	22,432

Notes:

1. Housing benefit figures include that element funded from local authorities' own funds.
2. The Department's detailed benefit expenditure tables, including forecasts to 2015, published following the Office for Budget Responsibility's publication of their autumn forecasts on 29 November 2010 can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Earlier forecasts (including June 2010 Budget) can also be found at the same address.

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities have been working with his Department on the simplification of housing benefit letters to claimants. [34059]

Steve Webb: The Department has been working with a number of local authorities to make letters that inform customers of housing benefit and council tax benefit decisions easier to understand. The authorities are Bradford metropolitan district council, Chelmsford borough council, Eastbourne borough council, Elmbridge borough council, Great Yarmouth borough council, Leicester city council and Wolverhampton city council. The results of this work will be publicised to all local authorities.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people will be affected by the proposal to cap housing benefit for working age tenants in the social rented sector based on family size in *(a)* Erith and Thamesmead constituency, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* in total. [38175]

Steve Webb: Impact assessments, which will include the number of households affected, will be published at the usual time to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Housing Benefit: Brent

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with housing officers at the London borough of Brent on the anticipated changes in the number of homeless families as a result of the changes to housing benefit rates. [37041]

Steve Webb: We have not discussed the impact of the 2011 changes to local housing allowance rates independently with the London borough of Brent. We have however planned a series of the conferences for all local authority housing benefit managers to provide them with information about the changes in 2011. These events will promote awareness of the toolkit of products, including detailed guidance, we will be providing for local authorities. To reduce the risk of households becoming homeless we have a substantial package of financial and practical support in place, worth £190 million over the spending review period. We are giving existing customers up to nine months' transitional protection so that they have time to look for alternative accommodation if they need to.

We are also widening local authority discretion to pay housing benefit direct to the landlord if it would help the customer secure a new tenancy or remain in their current home at a reduced rent.

Jobcentre Plus: Internet

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that information provided on Jobcentre Plus websites is up-to-date and accurate. [37916]

Chris Grayling: A key priority for the Department around the provision of customer information is to ensure that it is both accurate and up-to-date across both online and offline channels.

The information on departmental websites, including Directgov since the Jobcentre Plus website closed, is subject to the Accuracy of Information framework. This framework is audited by the Department's Risk Assurance Division (RAD) who seek assurance from the nominated Senior Responsible Office (SRO) within the Department that information is correct. The Department, in turn, seeks assurance from the businesses, including Jobcentre Plus, that information is correct.

The Department's content on Directgov is reviewed annually, or more frequently if, for example, a policy changes. The review process requires the owner of the policy to confirm the accuracy of the information developed by them, or in collaboration with them, before it is published on Directgov. Responsibility for obtaining this assurance rests with DWP Communications.

Content on Businesslink is also reviewed by policy owners at least once a year or more frequently if, for example, a policy changes.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2010, *Official Report,* columns 936-37W, on social security benefits: fraud, how many of the calls received by the National Benefit Fraud Helpline and passed to *(a)* the Fraud Investigation Service and *(b)* Customer Compliance in each of the last five years were dealt with and closed within (i) 0 to four weeks, (ii) one to two months, (iii) two to four months, (iv) four to six months, (v) six to eight months, (vi) eight to 10 months, (vii) 10 to 12 months, (viii) more than one year, (ix) more than 15 months and (x) more than two years. [38174]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish a Green Paper on the proposed single tier state pension. [37913]

Steve Webb: The Government are currently examining all aspects of state pension to identify options that could lead to a more simple and straightforward system. Final decisions have not yet been made.

Any proposals for reforming the system will be subject to consultation.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the proposed change in the indexation of the state pension from retail prices index to consumer prices index. [37925]

Steve Webb: The Department has received a number of such representations.

In response to a request for evidence on the suitability of the Consumer Prices Index for measuring pensioner inflation, I have placed in the Libraries copies of a paper "Analysis of the relative suitability of the Retail Prices Index (RPI) and the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) for reflecting cost of living increases for pensioners".

Although the indexation of additional state pension will change from the RPI to the CPI, this year we propose that the basic state pension is increased in line with the RPI, and thereafter by the highest of the CPI, average earnings, or 2.5%.

Telereal Trillium

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many contracts his Department has with Telereal Trillium; and what the monetary value is of all contracts his Department has with Telereal Trillium. [37902]

Chris Grayling: The Department has one contract with Telereal Trillium, a 20 year PFI contract in 1998 for the provision of fully fitted and serviced accommodation for which the Department pays an all inclusive unitary charge. The spend through this contract was £782,949,478 in 2009-10.

The scope of the services provided by Telereal Trillium include the provision of all accommodation occupied by DWP, and the services encompass building maintenance, life cycle works, energy/utilities management and environment, internal re-organisation and churn, porterage, security, health and safety, furniture and equipment, catering/security facilities and equipment, catering, waste management, internal and external cleaning, room booking service, and landscape maintenance.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department has received from landlords whose properties are managed through a contract between his Department and Telereal Trillium in the latest period for which figures are available. [37903]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Winter Fuel Payments

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review the September qualifying deadline for the £400 winter fuel payment for those turning 80 years old with a view to moving it to later in the year. [37830]

Steve Webb: The qualifying week is set in legislation as the third full week in September. We use this date so that we can establish entitlement, undertake the necessary checks and make payments before Christmas. The Government believe that making payments by Christmas every year is helpful in reassuring pensioners that they will have money available to pay for heating their homes during the coldest part of the year. We have no plans to change the qualifying week.

Work Capability Assessment

David T. C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will implement Professor Harrington's recommendations relating to the work capability assessment in full. [37854]

Chris Grayling: We welcome the first independent review of the WCA, led by Professor Malcolm Harrington. This is a thorough review that has reviewed a substantial amount of evidence. As a result, Professor Harrington has come forward with a wide range of far reaching and challenging proposals which the Government fully support.

We are committed to taking forward the review's recommendations so that we can make the system fairer and more effective. The Government response to Professor Harrington's review sets out how and when we will implement the recommendations of the review, almost all of which will be in place in time for the national roll-out of the incapacity benefits reassessment programme.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to staff responsible for the medical assessment of applicants for employment and support allowance. [37919]

Chris Grayling: The four stages of the training and approval process for health care professionals are:

Stage 1—pre-course reading and an office based, trainer led event

Stage 2—a written assessment of medical knowledge

Stage 3—supervised practical training and appraisal

In this stage the health care professional carries out assessments under the supervision of an experienced trainer where the emphasis is on:

customer service

medical assessment techniques, and

report completion skills

Stage 4—Appraisal of casework

During the period of provisional approval, the health care professional's trainer will assess all reports completed by the health care professional until his or her competence is assured.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions a Jobcentre Plus decision-maker did not follow the advice of an approved health care professional when making a decision on an individual's eligibility for employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [37924]

Chris Grayling: Employment and support allowance (ESA) was introduced in October 2008. A key factor in determining eligibility for ESA is the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The WCA is carried out by health care professionals employed by Atos Healthcare. A report of the WCA is then sent to Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus decision makers (JCP DMs) have to consider all the available information before making a decision on benefit entitlement. Any additional evidence provided by a customer's GP or consultant is important and is fully considered as part of this process.

The Department therefore holds information on both the recommendation made by Atos Healthcare at assessment and separate information on the JCP DM's final decision. We can determine where the decision differs but not why the decision was changed or whether a case was returned for reconsideration. Where the final JCP DM decision differs to the original Atos recommendation we refer to the decision being a result of 'at reconsideration' which may or not involve a return of the case to Atos.

The number of people for whom Atos recommended they be placed in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) and the Support Group (SG) and additional people who were placed in the WRAG or SG based on the JCP DM decision is presented in the following table. Please note that the impact of appeals is not included.

Table 1: ATOS recommendations of placement in the ESA Work Related Activity Group and additional people placed in the ESA Work Related Activity Group at reconsideration by Jobcentre Plus decision maker

Number

Claim start month	*WRAG—based on ATOS recommendation*	*Additional people placed in WRAG at reconsideration by JCP DM*
2008		
October	1,200	80
November	5,700	370
December	5,420	330
2009		
January	7,450	460
February	6,920	450
March	8,050	580
April	7,750	600
May	7,820	580
June	8,480	690
July	8,690	740
August	8,120	710
September	8,840	840
October	8,160	860
November	7,900	780
December	6,850	660
2010		
January	8,800	830
February	8,300	700
March	8,670	700
April	8,020	690
May	7,110	620
Total	148,270	12,230

Table 2: ATOS recommendations of placement in the ESA Support Group and additional people placed in the ESA Support Group at reconsideration by Jobcentre Plus decision maker

Number

Claim start month	*SG—based on ATOS recommendation*	*Additional people moved to SG—at reconsideration*
2008		
October	670	40
November	2,670	250
December	2,440	240
2009		
January	2,960	300
February	2,660	300
March	3,000	340
April	2,900	320
May	2,970	330
June	3,040	370
July	3,480	350
August	3,030	340
September	3,430	320
October	2,950	350
November	3,030	320
December	2,660	280
2010		
January	3,040	290
February	2,810	260
March	3,150	290
April	2,950	250
May	2,680	230
Total	56,480	5,770

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work capability assessment claim closures there have been in each month since October 2008. [37932]

Chris Grayling: The following table lists all outcomes from initial work capability assessments (WCA) nationally, for employment and support allowance claims starting in the months shown. This table is taken from the published official statistics report "ESA: Work Capability Assessment Statistical Release January 2011". The "Claim closed before assessment complete" column shows all new claims for ESA that were closed before the WCA process was completed.

The Department has commissioned qualitative research into ended ESA claims, which will include interviews with a sample of people whose claim was closed by Jobcentre Plus before they completed assessment for ESA. A report of this research will be published in the DWP research report series in spring 2011.

Monthly ESA on-flows by month of claim start and result of initial functional assessment

Month of claim start	Support group No.	Support group %	Work related activity group No.	Work related activity group %	Fit for Work No.	Fit for Work %	Claim closed before assessment complete No.	Claim closed before assessment complete %	Assessment still in progress No.	Assessment still in progress %	Total No.	Total %
October 2008	700	8	1,200	13	3,600	39	3,700	40	100	1	9,300	100
November 2008	2,900	6	5,900	13	17,500	39	18,200	41	200	1	44,800	100
December 2008	2,700	7	5,600	14	15,200	38	16,600	41	200	1	40,300	100
January 2009	3,200	6	7,700	15	21,000	39	21,000	39	300	1	53,300	100
February 2009	2,900	6	7,200	15	19,800	40	19,200	39	400	1	49,500	100
March 2009	3,300	6	8,400	15	23,500	41	20,900	37	500	1	56,700	100
April 2009	3,200	6	8,200	16	21,800	42	18,800	36	500	1	52,400	100
May2009	3,300	6	8,200	15	22,000	41	19,100	36	400	1	53,100	100
June 2009	3,400	6	9,000	16	22,700	40	21,200	37	600	1	56,800	100
July 2009	3,800	7	9,300	16	22,800	40	21,200	37	700	1	57,700	100
August 2009	3,300	6	8,700	17	20,400	40	18,600	36	600	1	51,600	100
September 2009	3,700	7	9,500	17	21,800	39	19,400	35	800	2	55,300	100
October 2009	3,300	6	8,900	17	21,200	40	18,900	36	1,100	2	53,300	100
November 2009	3,300	6	8,500	16	20,500	39	18,600	36	1,300	2	52,300	100
December 2009	2,900	7	7,400	17	16,800	38	16,100	36	1,300	3	44,500	100
January 2010	3,300	6	9,500	17	21,900	39	20,100	35	1,900	3	56,700	100
February 2010	3,100	6	8,900	16	21,400	39	18,700	34	2,500	5	54,500	100
March 2010	3,400	6	9,200	15	23,100	39	20,400	34	3,500	6	59,700	100
April 2010	3,200	6	8,600	16	20,300	37	18,200	34	4,100	8	54,300	100
May 2010	2,900	6	7,600	15	18,700	36	17,700	34	5,700	11	52,500	100
Total	61,800	6	157,600	16	396,100	39	366,600	36	26,500	3	1,008,600	100

Source:
Benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions and functional assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare.

The Department regularly publishes official statistics on ESA and the WCA, the latest report was published in January 2011. Further information is available in the report which can be found on the internet at the following link:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people who made a claim for employment and support allowance (ESA) and who were found fit for work at assessment have had an appeal heard by the Tribunals Service in each month since ESA assessments began; [37934]

(2) what proportion of people who have undergone a work capability assessment have been found fit to work at appeal in each month since October 2008. [37931]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people who are found fit for work, who then appeal the decision at a hearing with Ministry of Justice and the result of the appeal is published. The full publication can be found here:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Table 3 of the publication which relates specifically to fit for work decisions and appeals is reproduced as follows:

WCA appeals heard on 'Fit for Work' decision (initial assessments only)

Month of claim start	Fit for Work	Appeals heard(to date)	Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)	Decision in favour of appellant	DWP decision upheld	Percentage decision in favour of appellant	DWP decision upheld
October 2008	3,600	1,500	41	600	900	40	60
November 2008	17,500	7,200	41	2,800	4,400	40	60
December 2008	15,200	6,400	42	2,700	3,800	41	59
January 2009	21,000	8,900	42	3,600	5,300	40	60
February 2009	19,800	8,100	41	3,300	4,800	41	59
March 2009	23,500	9,400	40	3,800	5,500	41	59
April 2009	21,800	8,300	38	3,400	4,900	41	59
May 2009	22,000	8,000	36	3,200	4,800	40	60
June 2009	22,700	7,600	33	3,100	4,500	41	59
July 2009	22,800	7,100	31	2,700	4,300	39	61
August 2009	20,400	5,600	28	2,200	3,500	39	61
September 2009	21,800	5,300	24	2,000	3,300	37	63
October 2009	21,200	4,100	19	1,400	2,600	35	65
November 2009	20,500	2,800	14	900	2,000	31	69
Total	273,900	90,300	33	35,800	54,600	40	60

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Forestry Commission

19. **Karl Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in England. [37815]

Siobhain McDonagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the sale of land managed by the Forestry Commission in England. [37799]

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations she has received on the sale of forest and woodland managed by the Forestry Commission in England. [37805]

Mrs Spelman: Since the beginning of October last year we have received over 4,200 representations on the sale of the public forest estate.

21. **Chi Onwurah:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which forests in the North East she is considering for sale as part of the disposal of the public forest estate. [37817]

Mrs Spelman: We have recently published the selection criteria for woodland in the Forestry Commission's 2011-12 asset sales programme. The Forestry Commission is currently identifying woods which meet these criteria and so no further details are available at this time. Details of woodlands to be sold in subsequent years will only be developed once the public forest estate consultation has concluded.

Rural Payments Agency

20. **Rory Stewart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made on improving the performance of the Rural Payments Agency. [37816]

Mr Paice: Progress continues to be made in addressing the unhappy legacy which is described vividly in the independent review of RPA published last year. Despite the issues arising from the updating of farmer's maps and reduced staff numbers, the RPA met its target to pay 85% of 2010 SPS claimants by the end of December. But there is still much to do and it will inevitably take some time to fully address longstanding problems.

Common Fisheries Policy

22. **Sheryll Murray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if she will make a statement. [37818]

Richard Benyon: The common fisheries policy is broken. It has failed to deliver healthy fish stocks and a sustainable living for fishermen. We need radical reform, to simplify and decentralise fisheries management, building in the right incentives for fishermen to operate sustainably and profitably, and cutting the terrible waste of discards.

We are working with other member states, stakeholders and EU institutions to build support for radical reform ahead of negotiations later this year.

Global Food Security

23. **George Freeman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had on global food security; and if she will make a statement. [37819]

Mrs Spelman: Last week I spoke at the launch of Sir John Beddington's Foresight report on global food security. The report is clear that with almost one billion people hungry and significant environmental degradation business as usual is not sustainable.

The UK Government are determined to show international leadership on this issue. We are committed to international development and better functioning global markets, along with improving agriculture productivity. These are critical issues for CAP reform and the G20 this summer.

Crayfish

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to conserve the white-clawed crayfish population through the establishment of native-only refuge sites; and if she will make a statement. [37675]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has no direct role in the identification or establishment of refuge sites. However, Natural England and the Environment Agency are supporting white clawed crayfish refuge site creation projects within the regions. They are currently finalising a best practice/guidance document on decision-making in the placement and establishment of Ark sites, and other conservation requirements. Natural England is currently funding a Countdown 2010 project in south-west England involving a captive rearing programme at Bristol Zoo, the identification of Ark sites and reintroduction of white-clawed crayfish to a number of sites across the south-west.

Guidance on the creation of Ark sites has been drawn up by Buglife, and Ark site creation projects have been carried out by Buglife and the Peak District National Park, funded by Natural England through DEFRA'a Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

The Environment Agency is working in partnership with Buglife to create a crayfish website to draw together information on crayfish in the UK. The website will provide guidance for the general public and professionals working in the field.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of the size of the signal crayfish population in each of the last 5 years. [37678]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not made an assessment of the size of the signal crayfish population in England. However, the Environment Agency records presence/absence or numbers of individuals on an ad hoc basis as part of fisheries survey programmes, or biological monitoring work for WFD and other directives. The agency does not make quantitative estimates of population size, but works to understand the geographic spread of this non-native species.

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance her Department provides to (i) the Environment Agency and (ii) other relevant agencies on control of the signal crayfish population. [37679]

Richard Benyon: The non-native species framework strategy for Great Britain sets out the Government's broad policy approach to invasive non-native species. As signal crayfish are well established, complete eradication is no longer achievable. Therefore, our policy is to look toward methods to manage this species in the long term, minimising its spread and mitigating the consequent negative impacts where feasible.

DEFRA has had representation, through its executive agency CEFAS, on the native crayfish Biodiversity Action Plan steering group, which has disseminated advice on DEFRA policy to other agencies represented on the group (EA, Natural England, CCW), and to the wider community researching or managing crayfish populations. CEFAS additionally provides advice to other agencies and the public in respect of the legislation applicable to signal crayfish (and other alien crayfish) management and control within England and Wales.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10% by June 2011. [36608]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is committed to reducing carbon emissions from its estate and has taken a number of actions through the 10% CO_2 reduction initiative to implement projects which will improve its performance and deliver further savings.

To date, improvements have been made to a number of buildings across the DEFRA estate. Improvements to plant controls and Building Management Systems (BMS); improved insulation; and installation of energy efficient technologies such as voltage optimisation, boiler optimisation, and low energy lighting, are examples of initiatives implemented to meet the target.

These initiatives have been supported by the introduction of a 19° C winter heating temperature set point across the DEFRA estate, tighter control of heating and lighting times and staff awareness campaigns which have encouraged participation and support. These campaigns have enabled the Department to identify additional ideas for delivering further savings and help to embed culture change.

Delivery of the 10% CO_2 target is enabling DEFRA to demonstrate its commitment to reducing CO_2 emissions. This follows on from its achievement of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) 2010 target for carbon reduction from offices in 2009, where it met and exceeded the target. DEFRA is now less than 0.5% away from achieving the 2020 target of a 30% reduction in its CO_2 emissions. Since 2006, the Department has delivered an average 4% reduction year on year 2006 to 2009 and a 12.5% reduction in 2009-10.

DEFRA's CO_2 reduction performance is a direct result of the implementation of measures identified through its ongoing Carbon Reduction Programme. Since 2006, this programme has identified and reduced excessive energy consumption across the network estate. This has been delivered through a structured approach to the analysis and benchmarking of energy consumption data and a focus on quick win, high carbon saving projects. DEFRA's achievements have often set the benchmark for the sustainability industry. Specific achievements have been recognised through Carbon Trust Standard, BREEAM outstanding ratings and internationally through CoreNet Global.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians her Department has employed in each year since its creation. [37650]

Richard Benyon: The number of certified and charted librarians employed in DEFRA and its agencies on 31 December of each year is shown in the following table:

		Number
	Certified	*Chartered*
2004	0	9
2005	1	10
2006	1	9
2007	1	8
2008	1	8
2009	1	7
2010	1	7

The information for years prior to 2004 is not held.

Departmental Working Conditions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her Department's policy is on *(a)* the space provided per employee, *(b)* home working and *(c)* hot desking; how many employees it has on average per desk; and how much space on average there is per employee. [34591]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA policy on space provided per employee in offices is to target $8m^2$ per person accommodated and an occupancy ratio of 1.3 employees per desk space.

DEFRA policy allows home working subject to business need. DEFRA operates hot desking in its buildings.

Performance confirming how many employees DEFRA has on average per desk and space per employee is published annually in the annual State of the Estate report, which is laid before Parliament. The latest report is the 2009 report, which was published by the Office of Government Commerce in March 2010.

Fisheries

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of catch-quota schemes in reducing the discarding of fish; and if she will make a statement. [37645]

Richard Benyon: In 2010, the UK ran two voluntary trials in England and Scotland to test the effectiveness of the catch quota system at reducing discards of cod in the North sea. Six vessels participated in England and 17 in Scotland.

Initial results from both trials indicate that the catch quota system is very effective at reducing discards of cod. For UK vessels, the three year (2007-09) average discard rate for cod in the North sea was 51%—in comparison the discard rates for participants in the English trial were between 1% and 7%. A full analysis of the results of both trials will be available in the spring.

The UK is running an expanded catch quota trial in 2011 for North sea cod and south-west sole.

Fishing Vessels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the creation of a global record of fishing vessels. [37557]

Richard Benyon: We continue to strongly support the creation of a global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels, and supply vessels, as proposed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). We hope that, once operational, the global record will be a powerful tool in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, by significantly improving transparency in the ownership, operation, and activity of fishing vessels, and the vessels that support them.

Forestry Commission

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tracts of land have been sold by the Forestry Commission since 1997; what the *(a)* area in hectares, *(b)* sale price, *(c)* sale date and *(d)* biodiversity value was of the land sold in each case; and, where such land was forested, what the type of forest cover was. [37074]

Mr Paice: I have placed documents in the House Library detailing the area of land sold since 1997 by calendar year from 1997 to 2002 and by date of sale from 2003 to 2010. The total receipts from these sales (by financial year) from 2000-01 to 2009-10 are given in the table.

Biodiversity value and forest type of any woodland sold was not specifically recorded, but sales were chosen on the basis of the land making a relatively limited contribution to Forestry Commission objectives and providing limited added value from public ownership in the delivery of public benefits. Other information on the land sales since 1997 is not held centrally and could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost. Where the sale was completed more than five years ago the records may have been destroyed.

Financial year	*Receipts from sale of properties*[1] *(£)*	*Area (Ha) of sale of properties*[2]
2000-01	2,232,000	202
2001-02	5,537,000	464
2002-03	2,754,000	582
2003-04	1,532,000	663
2004-05	5,863,000	369
2005-06	2,123,000	780
2006-07	5,686,000	1,050
2007-08	6,093,000	1,024
2008-09	3,391,000	407
2009-10	7,734,000	1,175

[1] Figures from Forest Enterprise England annual accounts (includes woodland, buildings and development land).

[2] Figures from Deeds Management System (includes woodland, buildings and development land).

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress her Department has made in reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since her appointment. [36976]

Mr Paice: Lord Young's review of health and safety laws and the compensation culture "Common Sense, Common Safety" carried out for the Prime Minister was published on 15 October 2010.

Actions to implement Lord Young's recommendations are being taken forward across Government in line with the timetable set out in the report.

The review made no specific recommendations for the Department and no further review of health and safety legislation has been carried out and there are no plans to do so at this stage.

Rights of Way

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on which local authorities employ officers dedicated to the implementation of public rights of way. [37914]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold information on which local authorities employ officers dedicated to public rights of way.

Salmon

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate her Department has made of salmon stocks in rivers in each of the last five years. [37681]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency carries out a wide range of assessment and monitoring activities on salmon rivers in England and Wales; this includes annual assessments of both juvenile fish and returning adults. Catch data, and information from adult counters and traps where these are available, are used to make an annual compliance assessment of the salmon spawning success on each river, measured against river-specific 'targets'.

These and other measures of stock status are published annually in a report compiled jointly by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the Environment Agency. The most recent report, a copy of which will be placed in the Library, provides data for 2009, but includes information on salmon stock status over a longer time period, including the last five years. Data for 2010 have not yet been collated.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the use of imported biofuels. [38140]

Gregory Barker: Ministers have regular discussions on a range of issues which includes the deployment of sustainable biofuels.

Carbon Emissions: EU Action

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that the EU target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by between 80 and 95 per cent. by 2050 is maintained as a stand alone commitment; and if he will make a statement. [37911]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to making the transition to a low carbon economy both in the UK and EU. We support the EU target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050 which mirrors our own domestic commitment. DECC's work to explore the 'pathways to 2050', which is published on our website, has ensured the UK continues to be at the forefront of the debate on meeting the 2050 targets.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the financial effects on owners of private electricity and gas networks who become liable to pay the cost of the carbon reduction commitment tariff in cases where one or more of their tenants holds a climate change agreement. [37888]

Gregory Barker: The Government have not undertaken any additional assessment on the financial and regulatory costs of the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme since publication of the final impact assessment in January 2010. The final impact assessment estimated the net benefits overall of the scheme to be £3,800 million. The Government have begun an informal dialogue with scheme participants and other stakeholders on simplification of the scheme. This dialogue will help to inform future proposals for changes to the legislation underpinning the scheme, including in relation to the interaction between the CRC scheme and climate change agreements.

Coal-Fired Power Stations

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many coal-fired power stations were in operation in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the number of coal-fired power stations there will be in *(a)* 2020 and *(b)* 2030. [37348]

Charles Hendry: The latest figures show that there are 17 major coal fired power stations operating in the UK (as at the end of May 2010), equivalent to a capacity of 23 Gigawatts[1].

Of the 17 major coal-fired stations that are currently operational, six are scheduled to close by 2015 under the large combustion plant directive.

There is no projection available on the number of operating coal-fired power stations. However, the central projection for the capacity of major coal fired power stations in 2020 is 18 Gigawatts. This includes those with carbon capture storage technology. Coal power stations currently vary widely in size (from 0.4 to 3.8GW), if it is assumed that the coal power stations in 2020 are all 1.7GW (the current average size) this would equate to 10-11 stations.

DECC do not make projections on 2030. However, the projection for 2025 is 12 Gigawatts, assuming the same average size this equates to 7 to 8 power stations[2].

Sources:

[1] Table 5.11, Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics 2010

[2] DECC Updated Emissions Projections, Annex L, June 2010

Electricity

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the National Grid on the installation of an underground electricity cable between Scotland and England via Wirral; and if he will make a statement. [38124]

Charles Hendry: The Department regularly discusses electricity network policy issues with stakeholders including National Grid. However, DECC does not have a role in approving specific transmission investments. The approval of grid investment projects is a matter for the transmission owners and Ofgem. Ofgem are currently seeking further information on the proposed West Coast undersea link from National Grid and Scottish Power to enable them to take a decision on approving funding for the investment.

Energy

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will introduce a target to achieve a 20% or greater reduction in primary energy use through energy efficiency measures by 2020 as part of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan; and if he will make a statement. [37987]

Gregory Barker: The EU has already adopted (in 2007) an indicative EU-wide target to reduce primary energy use by 20% by 2020 compared with "business as usual" through improvements in energy efficiency. This target provides the context for the European Commission's forthcoming review of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan which is scheduled for publication soon. The Government do not believe additional energy efficiency targets are needed.

Energy Supply

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what representations he has received on off-grid energy supply between 1 June 2010 and 10 December 2010; [37891]

(2) whether he has received any recent representations on pricing in the off-grid energy market. [37892]

Charles Hendry: As I noted in the fuel poverty debate on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 255-79WH, there have been a significant number of representations on the domestic oil market from the public and Members of Parliament. I fully recognise the difficulties people have experienced with rising prices and supply problems, as set out in my written ministerial statement on 21 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS. I welcome the independent assessment of the off-grid market by the Office of Fair Trading, and I look forward to seeing its conclusions in advance of next winter so the lessons from this winter can be learned and any necessary changes made.

Energy: Prices

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to protect consumers who enter into fixed-term energy contracts from large early termination penalties. [37123]

Charles Hendry: Currently we have no plans to bring forward the proposals the hon. Member asks about. The setting of termination fees is a contractual matter between the supplier and the customer. The fees are designed to cover the costs incurred by the supplier when a customer switches away before the end of the fixed-term contract.

Ofgem are currently consulting on fixed-term contract practices in the domestic supply market.

Fuel Poverty

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who the chair of the fuel poverty review is. [38020]

Gregory Barker: An announcement about the Independent Reviewer will be made in due course.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the Government's fuel poverty review to report. [38021]

Gregory Barker: We expect the review of fuel poverty to report by the end of the year.

Global Warming Policy Foundation

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he and Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the Global Warming Policy Foundation in the latest period for which information is available. [38022]

Gregory Barker: Neither the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, myself nor my fellow Ministers in the Department have had meetings or discussions with representatives of the Global Warming Policy Foundation.

Natural Gas and Oil

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will request the European Council not to authorise an assessment of the potential for the extraction and use of *(a)* shale gas and *(b)* oil shale; and if he will make a statement. [37912]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to the EU moving to a low-carbon, energy secure and competitive economy by 2050, and in particular that it meets its objective of reducing greenhouse gas emission levels by 80% to 95% by then. However, fossil fuels will remain a vital part of the transition to a low-carbon economy and the EU therefore needs to do all it can to understand what fossil fuels may be available so that member states can take informed decisions about their most efficient and sustainable use.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to subsidise renewable heat energy. [37977]

Gregory Barker: We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme shortly and to be open for business from 2011.

CABINET OFFICE

Social Security Benefits: Advisory Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he plans to allocate additional resources to voluntary sector benefit advice agencies during the period of reductions in public sector expenditure. [37505]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are directing at least £470 million over the spending review period to support capacity building in the voluntary sector, including a £100 million Transition Fund as short-term support for voluntary sector organisations providing public services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2010, *Official Report,* column 195W, on anti-Semitism, if she will make it her policy to collect details of *(a)* victims and *(b)* alleged offenders of anti-Semitic crime; and if she will make a statement. [38033]

James Brokenshire: The Coalition programme for government included a commitment to improve the recording of hate crime offences. This has been implemented and the official collection of this data will begin in April 2011. This collection of data will cover the five 'monitored' hate crime strands and, at this time, it will not be possible to disaggregate this data down further. We will continue discussions with the police to see whether it is feasible to break this data down further so that anti-Semitic hate crime can be collected. These discussions will have to include whether the disaggregation of this data will add to the bureaucratic burden on police officers, which is something the Government have committed to reduce.

The Community Security Trust (CST) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) National Community Tension Team (NCTT) collect data on reports of anti-Semitic hate crime and will continue to do so. The ACPO NCTT data, published on 30 November 2010 showed that there were 703 anti-Semitic hate crimes in calendar year 2009. The latest figures from the CST will be released in the near future.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a report from the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis on allegations of anti-Semitic comments made at the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts protest on 29 January 2011; whether any arrests have been made in consequence of such allegations; and if she will make a statement. [R] [38050]

James Brokenshire: The Government deplore any instances of anti-Semitism and are committed to tackling it. We have no plans to commission a report from the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis. The police are operationally independent of the Government so any questions on arrests at the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts, which took place in Manchester, would need to be directed to the chief constable of Greater Manchester police.

Asylum

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether gender-related persecution claims are considered as claims unlikely to be accepted into the fast track detention process for asylum seekers. [38149]

Damian Green: Entry to the detained fast track procedure is determined by reference to published policy. The policy lays out categories of claimant who, for reasons of particular vulnerability, are excluded from entry to the process. These reasons include late pregnancy, significant ill-health and where the applicants are accepted as victims of trafficking or torture. For all other claimants, the key factor determining entry to the process is whether a quick, fair and sustainable decision can be taken on the case.

The question of suitability for entering the process is considered on a case-by-case basis, based on what is known about the individual and their claim.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers of each country of origin have participated in the detained fast track process in each year for which figures are available. [38150]

Damian Green: The following tables show the number of asylum applicants who have been accepted in a fast track centre by nationality and location, for the years in which data are available.

Further information on asylum fast track detainees is available in Supplementary Tables 2r to 2u of Control of Immigration: Annual Bulletin, United Kingdom 2009 in the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Principal asylum applicants accepted at fast track centres, by country of nationality, 2001-09[1,2]

Number of principal applicants

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*		*2005*		
Country of nationality	*Oakington*	*Oakington*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*
Albania	450	335	190	40	140	20	5	80
Macedonia	10	70	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Moldova	*	5	105	n/a	70	n/a	n/a	35
Russia	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	10	5	15
Turkey	*	840	865	85	605	95	5	340
Ukraine	185	145	155	n/a	70	n/a	n/a	25
Bulgaria	*	30	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cyprus	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Czech Republic	710	645	40	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Estonia	20	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	5	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Latvia	80	125	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Principal asylum applicants accepted at fast track centres, by country of nationality, 2001-09[1,2]

Number of principal applicants

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*		*2005*		
Country of nationality	*Oakington*	*Oakington*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*
Lithuania	110	200	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poland	430	460	35	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Romania	345	335	195	n/a	110	n/a	n/a	40
Slovakia	40	75	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Former USSR	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Armenia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Belarus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	5	n/a
Georgia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	n/a
Kazakhstan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Uzbekistan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Europe	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Croatia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kosovo	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Serbia and Montenegro[4]	n/a	n/a	180	5	70	5	n/a	50
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[4]	390	265	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colombia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15	15	n/a	20
Ecuador	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	25	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jamaica	*	*	340	95	220	85	10	160
Other Americas	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Bolivia	15	15	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brazil	10	15	10	n/a	25	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cuba	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guyana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Algeria	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	65	10	n/a	50
Angola	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a
Burundi	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cameroon	155	140	n/a	45	100	35	5	60
Congo	n/a	40	10	5	25	10	n/a	10
Dem. Rep. of Congo	*	n/a	n/a	10	30	35	5	85
Eritrea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	295
Ethiopia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	n/a
Gambia	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	45	30	5	25
Ghana	95	120	100	125	135	75	10	75
Ivory Coast	65	80	65	25	125	5	n/a	110
Kenya	100	80	25	5	35	5	5	35
Liberia	n/a	n/a	10	10	35	15	5	35
Libya	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Nigeria	405	450	300	165	540	250	55	270
Rwanda	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sierra Leone	20	25	n/a	n/a	20	10	n/a	15
Somalia	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25
Sudan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	15	n/a	n/a
Tanzania	30	10	10	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Uganda	225	190	65	50	110	55	20	45
Zimbabwe	1,260	865	25	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	90
Other Africa	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Chad	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Egypt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	n/a	n/a
Guinea	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	25	25	n/a	15
Guinea-Bissau	n/a	*	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malawi	n/a	*	50	35	55	30	15	35
Mauritania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Mauritius	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Morocco	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Namibia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Principal asylum applicants accepted at fast track centres, by country of nationality, 2001-09[1,2]

Number of principal applicants

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*		*2005*		
Country of nationality	*Oakington*	*Oakington*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*
Senegal	n/a	n/a	10	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Africa	*	10	85	n/a	50	n/a	n/a	55
Togo	n/a	*	10	5	15	20	n/a	25
Tunisia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Zambia	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iran	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	15	5	190
Iraq	1,030	75	65	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40
Syria	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	10
Other middle east	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Israel	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lebanon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Palestine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	n/a
Afghanistan	5	20	295	25	330	105	n/a	315
Bangladesh	190	155	190	5	205	45	5	130
China[5]	1,335	1,155	670	45	1,330	25	n/a	1,075
India	750	805	1,015	35	915	5	n/a	665
Pakistan	640	485	270	130	305	185	25	225
Sri Lanka	*	30	235	5	160	n/a	n/a	215
Vietnam	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85	n/a	n/a	110
Other Asia and Oceania	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Burma (Myanmar)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Hong Kong	*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malaysia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mongolia	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	45	10	5	25
Nepal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20	15	n/a	n/a
Philippines	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other nationalities[6]	5	55	85	90	245	90	35	180

Number of principal applicants

	2006			*2007*		
Country of nationality	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*[3]
Albania	25	n/a	40	5	5	5
Macedonia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Moldova	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	5
Russia	15	5	5	5	n/a	n/a
Turkey	105	25	20	30	15	5
Ukraine	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	5	5
Bulgaria	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cyprus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Czech Republic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Estonia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Latvia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lithuania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Romania	n/a	n/a	15	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slovakia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Former USSR	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Armenia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Belarus	15	5	n/a	5	5	n/a
Georgia	10	5	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Kazakhstan	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Uzbekistan	10	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Other Europe	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Croatia	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a

Number of principal applicants

	2006			2007		
Country of nationality	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*[3]
Kosovo	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
Serbia and Montenegro[4]	5	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colombia	20	5	n/a	10	5	n/a
Ecuador	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	5	n/a
Jamaica	25	10	50	10	25	15
Other Americas	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Bolivia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brazil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cuba	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Guyana	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Algeria	20	n/a	25	10	5	n/a
Angola	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5	n/a
Burundi	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cameroon	20	20	30	20	20	n/a
Congo	10	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dem. Rep. of Congo	15	5	30	5	10	n/a
Eritrea	10	n/a	280	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ethiopia	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gambia	30	15	15	10	10	5
Ghana	n/a	10	45	10	15	10
Ivory Coast	10	5	45	n/a	5	n/a
Kenya	20	10	10	10	15	5
Liberia	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
Libya	5	n/a	5	5	n/a	n/a
Nigeria	75	75	210	25	75	45
Rwanda	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sierra Leone	10	5	5	n/a	10	n/a
Somalia	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sudan	35	n/a	5	5	n/a	n/a
Tanzania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a
Uganda	35	20	n/a	20	20	5
Zimbabwe	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5
Other Africa	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Chad	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Egypt	5	n/a	n/a	5	5	n/a
Guinea	20	5	n/a	5	5	n/a
Guinea-Bissau	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malawi	15	10	n/a	5	10	5
Mauritania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mauritius	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Morocco	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Namibia	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Senegal	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Africa	5	n/a	15	5	10	10
Togo	5	5	n/a	n/a	5	n/a
Tunisia	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Zambia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iran	10	15	110	20	10	n/a
Iraq	n/a	n/a	20	5	n/a	n/a
Syria	5	n/a	5	5	n/a	n/a
Other middle east	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Israel	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Lebanon	5	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Palestine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Afghanistan	115	n/a	95	80	n/a	5
Bangladesh	140	n/a	30	80	5	10
China[5]	25	20	515	45	55	5
India	10	n/a	370	5	20	135

Number of principal applicants

Country of nationality	*2006* *Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*	*2007* *Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Oakington*[3]
Pakistan	155	30	30	155	55	5
Sri Lanka	15	10	175	45	30	15
Vietnam	n/a	n/a	10	5	n/a	n/a
Other Asia and Oceania	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—	[8]—
Burma (Myanmar)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hong Kong	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Malaysia	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5	n/a
Mongolia	5	n/a	25	n/a	5	n/a
Nepal	25	5	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Philippines	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
South Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	5	n/a
Other nationalities[6]	90	55	35	45	40	15

Number of principal applicants

Country of nationality	*2008* *Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*2009*[7] *Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*
Albania	20	*	40	5
Macedonia	—	—	—	—
Moldova	5	5	*	*
Russia	10	5	*	*
Turkey	45	10	55	10
Ukraine	5	5	10	5
Bulgaria	—	—	—	—
Cyprus	—	—	—	—
Czech Republic	—	—	—	—
Estonia	—	—	—	—
Hungary	—	—	—	—
Latvia	—	—	—	—
Lithuania	—	—	—	—
Poland	—	—	—	—
Romania	—	—	—	—
Slovakia	—	—	—	—
Other Former USSR	15	10	15	5
Armenia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Belarus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Georgia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kazakhstan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Uzbekistan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other Europe	5	*	10	*
Croatia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kosovo	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Serbia and Montenegro[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia[4]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Colombia	5	*	5	—
Ecuador	*	*	—	—
Jamaica	30	25	35	15
Other Americas	20	15	30	15
Bolivia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brazil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cuba	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guyana	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Algeria	25	5	20	*
Angola	*	*	—	*
Burundi	—	—	—	*
Cameroon	10	10	5	*
Congo	5	—	5	*
Dem. Rep. of Congo	5	5	5	*
Eritrea	—	*	—	—
Ethiopia	*	n/a	—	5

Number of principal applicants

	2008		*2009*[7]	
Country of nationality	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*	*Harmondsworth*	*Yarl's Wood*
Gambia	5	10	20	10
Ghana	15	15	15	10
Ivory Coast	5	—	•	•
Kenya	10	20	15	15
Liberia	—	—	5	—
Libya	10	•	5	—
Nigeria	85	75	140	45
Rwanda	•	•	—	•
Sierra Leone	5	5	•	5
Somalia	—	•	—	•
Sudan	•	—	—	—
Tanzania	5	5	5	5
Uganda	30	15	30	30
Zimbabwe	•	5	5	5
Other Africa	80	50	75	70
Chad	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Egypt	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guinea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guinea-Bissau	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malawi	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mauritania	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mauritius	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Morocco	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Namibia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Senegal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Africa	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Togo	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tunisia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Zambia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iran	10	10	30	20
Iraq	20	•	15	—
Syria	•	—	•	—
Other middle east	10	5	5	—
Israel	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lebanon	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Palestine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Afghanistan	180	5	380	—
Bangladesh	85	5	100	10
China[5]	50	90	75	90
India	30	15	120	20
Pakistan	245	55	320	60
Sri Lanka	40	15	5	5
Vietnam	10	•	5	•
Other Asia and Oceania	30	10	25	15
Burma (Myanmar)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hong Kong	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Malaysia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mongolia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nepal	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Philippines	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Korea	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other nationalities[6]	—	—	—	—

n/a = not available

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five (— = 0, • = 1 or 2).

[2] Harmondsworth fast track centre opened in 2004; Yarl's Wood Fast Track centre opened in 2005.

[3] The detained non-suspensive appeal process for females at Oakington moved in 2008 to Yarl's Wood alongside the female detained fast track process already there.

[4] Serbia and Montenegro replaced Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 5 February 2003. Serbia and Montenegro comprises Republic of Serbia, Republic of Montenegro, and Kosovo.

[5] Figures for China in 2008 and 2009 include Taiwan.

[6] 'Other nationalities' data include figures for nationalities not listed here (2001-07) and unknown nationalities for all years. In 2008 and 2009, other nationalities are counted in 'Other Europe', 'Other Americas', 'Other middle east', 'Other Asia and Oceania' and 'Other Africa'.

[7] Provisional figures

[8] Not applicable

Departmental Art Works

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pieces of artwork her Department has moved since May 2010. [37579]

Damian Green: Since May 2010 no pieces of artwork owned by the Home Office in its headquarters have been moved. The Government Art Collection is responsible for moving the Government Art in the building on loan to the Department. Since May 2010 a piece of public art situated in the building's water feature was moved by the PFI supplier at its own expense for security reasons.

Departmental Furniture

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on furniture since May 2010. [37580]

Damian Green: Home Office Headquarters at Marsham street has spent £41,000 plus VAT on furniture since May. 50% of this was used to support the move of additional staff into the building as part of an estate rationalisation plan that delivers greater value for money from our office accommodation.

Departmental Procurement

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what single tender contracts her Department has awarded since her appointment; and what the monetary value is of each contract above the EU public procurement threshold. [36187]

Damian Green: The Home Department acquires goods and services through open and fair competition unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary. The Home Department has awarded the following single tender contracts since May 2010:

RS-740 Directional Capability

Repair of Fieldpro 5X Thermal Imaging Camera

Air Products gases and gas bottles

Universal digital CCTV replay software

Toppings of fields at Sandridge

Laboratory gases safety awareness workshops and connecting regulators

Intruder Alarm systems annual maintenance

Removal of L3 Provision Body Scanner Unit

Juno test and evaluation unit and training session

Premiair AS355 Space Pod—RSI700 Approvals

Facility hire for HOSDB trials

Vessel Arrest Launcher VA10/Vessel Arrest fence

TracER-532-6W Compact Forensic Laser System

Saliva-based Drug Tests at the Point-of-Arrest and extension

Support for management of "FALL" image data

Delivery of processed explosives to HOSDB site

V-OVG live CW/explosive calibration Vapour Generator

UV camera and IRIS software integration

Monitor and report on developments in XML specifications to IST/44 and HODSB and ensure timely and effective definition of UK portion for input

Workshops at University of Glamorgan

Access to Caerwent facility

FALCON hand held detector for hidden explosives and contraband. FALCON visual display

Use of Millbrook track and facilities

Flight trial over using C-VON Inc RS700 system. Fuel bowser and radio support/operator at Caerwent. STC modification for RS705

Research Project looking at CCTV imagery format structure

Flexible ballistics shield including removable armoured plates

Trial facilities

Health and Safety assessment of activities associated with examining chemicals at Heathrow and provisional advice on PPE and engineering controls

Preliminary review on strategic options for the closure of FSS

Community training tackling violence against women and girls.

The monetary value of one contract and its extension, on research on advanced non-bio chips for saliva-based drug tests, at a total value of £120,244 was above the EU public procurement threshold.

Departmental Video Recordings

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on film production, including the filming of speeches, since May 2010. [37576]

Damian Green: Film is used throughout the Home Office and its agencies for training purposes and to communicate with staff. The total cost of film production is not information which is either centrally held or readily collated so could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Detention Centres: Children

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children are held in immigration detention; and how many were so held in each month since September 2010. [37736]

Damian Green: As at 30 September 2010, the latest date for which National Statistics have been published, five children were detained solely under Immigration Act powers. This figure is rounded to the nearest five.

The latest published management information for the numbers of children entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers were: 15 in October 2010, three in November 2010 and three in December 2010.

These figures may include age disputed cases.

The Home Office publishes National Statistics on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a quarterly and annual basis and management information on the number of children entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers, by month, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

On 16 December 2010, the right hon. Member the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Clegg) announced a new package to deliver the coalition commitment to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and the immediate closure of the family unit to children at the Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

The UK Border Agency will now follow a new four stage process focused on engagement with families during the decision making process, giving parents the opportunity to engage in when and how they return, when they have been found to have no legal right to stay in the UK. The new measures will ensure a family's return home is safe and dignified. Most elements of this new approach will be in place in March.

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reasons her Department has identified for the doubling in the number of appeals against refusals of entry clearance between 2005 and 2006; and for what reasons the number of such appeals has remained broadly constant since 2006. [33737]

Damian Green: The Control of Immigration: Statistics 2006, does not specify a reason for the increase in appeals lodged and there was no change in the immigration rules that could account for the increase. It is possible that a change in the method of recording appeals in 2006 may have been a contributory factor. However, in spite of best endeavours, the Department has been unable to account reliably for this increase.

The number of appeals reduced in 2010 due to the impact of the points-based system which attracts limited rights of appeal, on human rights and race relations grounds only.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry visas her Department issued to non-EU nationals for the study of English as a second language in each year since 2006. [37737]

Damian Green: The information requested is not held centrally by the UK Border Agency. It could be provided by checking individual records, only at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Workers

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of non-EU nationals working in the NHS with an appropriate visa. [37994]

Damian Green: It is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of the number of non-EU nationals working in the NHS with an appropriate visa. This is because there are some migrants lawfully here who are free to access the labour market without informing the UK Border Agency where they are working at any given time.

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which non-governmental organisations *(a)* she has met to discuss and *(b)* were consulted on the formulation and content of the Government's policy on human trafficking between 14 October 2010 and 15 December 2010; and if she will make a statement. [37441]

Damian Green: There were no ministerial discussions or consultations with non-governmental organisations about the forthcoming strategy during the period in question. However, initial discussions between officials and non-governmental organisations about the strategy took place at the UK Human Trafficking Centre Prevention Group.

Internal work has been progressing on the human trafficking strategy and it is now being discussed with non-governmental organisations. I will be meeting them during this phase of developing the strategy.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gave to the consulting non-governmental organisations on the formulation and content of the Government's forthcoming policy on human trafficking between 15 December 2010 and 26 January 2011; and if she will make a statement. [37442]

Damian Green: Internal work has been progressing on the human trafficking strategy and we are now in the process of discussing it with voluntary sector organisations.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the compatibility of her Department's conduct of the consultation process on its policy on human trafficking with the Government's Big Society initiative; and if she will make a statement. [37443]

Damian Green: Internal work has been progressing on the human trafficking strategy and we are now in the process of discussing it with non-governmental organisations.

The voluntary sector plays a key role in the provision of support to victims of human trafficking. We are strongly supportive of this role and will continue to work in partnership with voluntary organisations to reduce the incidence of human trafficking.

Ministers' Private Offices

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on redecorating ministerial offices since May 2010. [37581]

Damian Green: Since May 2010, an estimated £2,000 has been spent on repainting and maintaining the Department's ministerial offices.

Police: Demonstrations

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will review guidance to police forces on the practice of kettling in policing demonstrations; and if she will introduce procedures for her Department to monitor compliance by police forces with such guidance; [37901]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's guidance to police forces on the use of kettling in policing demonstrations. [37904]

James Brokenshire: The use of police tactics, such as containment, is an operational matter for police forces. The courts have ruled that containment is a lawful tactic when used proportionately.

The Association of Chief Police Officers has recently published revised guidance on public order policing which includes guidance on containment. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will shortly be publishing a report on how recommendations from its 2009 Adapting to Protest Report, including those on containment, have been met.

Police: Powers

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on police powers on noise abatement rules in respect of the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. [36070]

James Brokenshire: The only measures relating to noise which the Government are bringing forward in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill are focused on regulating the use of loudhailers on Parliament square. The Government have discussed these provisions with Westminster city council, the Greater London authority and the Metropolitan police service.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* C-17s, *(b)* TriStars and *(c)* VC10-s are owned and operated by the RAF; how many are serviceable at any one time; and how many have operated in the Afghan theatre in each month since January 2010. [34958]

Mr Robathan: The available information is provided in the following table. In service aircraft includes those undergoing planned depth maintenance but excludes those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal. The forward fleet (FF) comprises aircraft which are serviceable or short-term unserviceable. Fit for purpose (FFP) aircraft include only serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes. The number of aircraft available in each category varies according to normal fleet management activities including requirements for mandated maintenance and upgrade programmes. Figures for FF and FFP are monthly averages for 2010.

	C-17			*TriStar*			*VC10*		
Month	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
January	6	5.3	3.6	9	4.9	2.9	15	12.5	6.2
February	6	5.3	4.1	9	4.4	3.0	15	12.3	7.3
March	6	5.1	4.4	9	5.3	2.5	15	11.9	6.3
April	6	5.1	4.0	9	6.3	3.1	13	9.6	4.7
May	6	5.5	4.3	9	5.5	2.0	13	10.3	6.1
June	6	5.4	4.9	9	5.7	2.6	13	9.9	6.5
July	6	5.6	5.2	9	5.7	2.4	13	9.7	5.5
August	6	4.2	3.3	9	6	2.9	13	9.6	5.8
September	6	4.4	3.8	9	6	3.6	13	10.6	6.9
October	6	5.0	4.6	9	5	2.9	13	10.6	7.6
November	6	5.2	4.7	9	4.9	2.7	13	10.5	6.4
December	6	5.7	5.3	9	4.9	1.9	13	11.2	6.9

The number of aircraft operated each month in support of Operation Herrick cannot be broken down to individual airframe level. No VC10 has operated on the Airbridge since January 2010.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether funding for the health for heroes campaign will be allocated to armed forces based in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Wales. [38131]

Mr Robathan: "Health for heroes" is an informal reference that has recently been applied by the press to the medical care provided for the armed forces and ex-service personnel, with a particular emphasis on mental health care. We have a wide range of current and planned initiatives across Government to support serving and former members of the armed forces, such as the 'Fighting Fit' review by my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) and our enhancements to health care services as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. Any enhancements to health care for serving members of the armed forces will be applicable wherever they are based in the UK, including Scotland and Wales.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his proposal to increase compensation payments for ex-service personnel suffering mental health disorders will apply to service personnel based in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Wales. [38132]

Mr Robathan: Yes. The increased payments will apply to all eligible personnel in the UK armed forces, regardless of where they are based.

Army

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit-for-task strength is of each corps of the Army. [35890]

Mr Robathan: In the table "required strength" and "actual strength" figures are shown as "funded liability" and "trained strength" respectively.

"Fit for Task" has been interpreted as fit to deploy for any form of duty on deployment, including personnel listed as having limited deployability.

"Funded Liability" means the number of personnel required in each corps. "Trained Strength" is the number of personnel in that corps who have completed initial training—which for the Army is Phase 1 and Phase 2 training—as at 1 November 2010. The trained strength will fluctuate according to the number of recruits successfully completing initial training and personnel leaving the Corps. The difference between "Trained Strength" and "Number Fit for Task" accounts for trained personnel who are classed as "non-deployable due to illness or injury."

Figures for the Regular Army[1]

Organisation	*Funded liability*	*Trained strength*	*Number fit for task*
Staff	716	820	790
Royal Armoured Corps	5,778	6,000	5,680
Royal Artillery	7,632	7,710	7,220
Royal Engineers	9,528	9,660	9,210
Royal Signals	8,222	7,600	7,180
Infantry	24,631	24,750	22,930
Army Air Corps	2,016	2,140	2,050
Royal Army Chaplains Department	150	130	120
Royal Logistics Corps	15,487	15,420	14,230
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,489	3,010	2,750
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,741	10,010	9,430
Adjutant General's Corps			
Provost	1,792	1,700	1,580
Staff and Personnel Support	3,858	3,750	3,350
Military Provost Service	139	110	110
Educational and Training Services	317	340	310
Army Legal Services	105	120	110
Unspecified	—	10	—
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	220	350	320
Small Arms School Corps	153	160	150
Royal Army Dentistry Corps	411	370	330
Intelligence Corps	1,688	1,530	1,450
Army Physical Training Corps	462	480	450
Queen Alexandra's Royal Auxiliary Nursing Corps	1,318	900	790
Corps of Army Music	907	790	750
Long Service List	570	340	310

[1] Trained strength and fit for task figures are rounded. These figures are provisional, and subject to review.

Artillery: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much ammunition was allocated to courses involving the training of artillery personnel and forward observation officers to call in fire in each year since 2008; and what the cost of such ammunition was. [37332]

Mr Robathan: The amount and cost of ammunition allocated on all courses involving the training of artillery personnel and forward observation officers in each financial year since 2008 is shown in the following tables:

Financial year 2007-08

Ammunition type	*Quantity/cost*
Round 14.5MM Artillery Training Charge 2 L2A1	15,005
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A3 Fuzed L116A1 W/Cart Normal L35A3	1,000
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A4 Fuzed L106A4 W/Cart Normal L35A3	2,400
Shell 105MM FD BE Smoke Screening L45A2 Fuzed L92A2	1
Shell 105MM FD BE SMK SCR L45A2 FZD L92A2 W/Cart Nor L35A2	1
Shell 105MM FD Marker Orange Smoke L38A2 Fuzed L32A3	825
Cartridge Propelling 105MM FD Normal L35A3	144
Cartridge Blank 105 MM FD 6OZ GP L48A1	26
Cartridge Blank 105MM FD 12O Z GP L47A1	8
Shell 155MM HE L21A2 Plugged	13,100
Charge Propelling 155MM M3A1	12,190
Charge Propelling 155MM M4A2	910
Charge Propelling 155MM L10A1 Charge 8 W/Prim DM191A1	326
Shell 155MM SMK BE DM105A2 FZD L132A1/CHGE L8A1/PRIM DM191A1	275
Shell 155MM Illuminating DM106A2 Fuzed L132A1	102
Shell 155MM Illum DM106A2 FZD L132A1/CHGE L8A1/PRIM DM191A1	321
Shell 155MM Practice Inert L17A2 with PRF	326
Fuze Nose Electronic Time ETF L132A1	2
Fuze Nose Proximity and Percussion L116A1	920
Fuze Nose Percussion Direct Action and Graze L160A1	12,180
Primer Percussion DM191A1	326
Primer Percussion M82	31,083
MLRS Reduced Range Practice Rocket L1A1	74
Total cost (£)	14,139,251.10

Financial year 2008-09

Ammunition type	*Quantity/cost*
Round 14.5MM Artillery Training Charge 2 L2A1	15,000
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A4 Fuzed L106A4 W/Cart Normal L35A3	16,623
Shell 105MM FD BE SMK SCR L45A2 FZD L92A2 W/Cart Nor L35A2	1,290
Shell 105MM FD Illuminating Para L43A3 Fuzed L92A2	348
Shell 105MM FD Marker Orange Smoke L38A2 Fuzed L32A3	250
Cartridge Propelling 105MM FD Normal L35A3	250
Shell 155MM HE L21A2 Plugged	905
Charge Propelling 155MM M3A1	453
Charge Propelling 155MM M4A2	453
Charge Propelling 155MM L10A2 Charge 8	397
Shell 155MM SMK BE DM105A2 FZD L92A2/ Chge L8A1/PRIM DM191A1	97
Shell 155MM Practice Inert L17A2 with PRF	397
Fuze Nose Percussion Direct Action and Graze L106A4	905
Primer Percussion DM191A1	330
Primer Percussion M82	996
MLRS Reduced Range Practice Rocket L1A2	74
Total cost (£)	19,316,974.06

Financial year 2009-10

Ammunition type	*Quantity/cost*
Round 14.5MM Artillery Training Charge 2 L2A1	15,000
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A4 Fuzed L106A4 W/Cart Normal L35A3	15,706
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A4 Fuzed L116A1 W/Cart Normal L35A3	1
Shell 105MM FD BE SMK SCR L52A1 FZD L132A1 W/Cart Nor L35A3	1,291
Shell 105MM FD Illuminating L43A4 Fuzed L132A1	623
Cartridge Propelling 105MM FD Normal L35A3	620
Shell 155MM HE L21A2 Plugged	1,678
Charge Propelling 155MM M3A1	902
Charge Propelling 155MM M4A2	776
Charge Propelling 155MM L8A2 Charge 3 to 7	160
Shell 155MM Smoke BE DM 105A2 Fuzed L132A1	97
Shell 155MM Illuminating DM106A2 Fuzed L132A1	63
Fuze Nose Percussion Direct Action and Graze L106A4	1,678
Primer Percussion DM191A2	160
Primer Percussion M82	1,678
MLRS Reduced Range Practice Rocket L1A2	74
Total cost (£)	19,611,296.85

Financial year 2010-11

Ammunition type	*Quantity/cost*
Round 14.5MM Artillery Training Charge 2 L2A1	12,809
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A4 Fuzed L106A4 W/Cart Normal L35A3	15,325
Shell 105MM FD HE L31A4 Fuzed L116A1 W/Cart Normal L35A3	792
Shell 105MM FD BE SMK SCR L52A1 FZD L132A1 W/Cart Nor L35A3	4,189
Shell 105MM FD Illuminating L43A4 Fuzed L132A1	1,683
Cartridge Propelling 105MM FD Normal L35A3	371
Shell 155MM HE L21A2 Plugged	872
Charge Propelling 155MM M3A1	907
Charge Propelling 155MM L8A2 Charge 3 to 7	98
Charge Propelling 155MM L10A2 Charge 8	238
Shell 155MM Smoke BE DM105A2 Fuzed L132A1	58
Shell 155MM Illuminating DM106A2 Fuzed L132A1	34
Shell 155MM Practice Inert L17A3 with PRF	102
Fuze Nose Percussion Direct Action and Graze L106A4	907
Primer Percussion DM191A2	337
Primer Percussion M82	907
MLRS Reduced Range Practice Rocket L1A2	86
Total cost (£)	28,618,743.15

Departmental Photography

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on taking, mounting and hanging photographs of its Ministers since April 2010. [38133]

Mr Robathan: It is longstanding practice to display pictures of Ministers in the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Photographs of the new Defence Ministers were taken by in-house MOD photographers as part of their normal duty. No additional costs were incurred.

Some hard copy photographs were produced for the two display boards in MOD's Main Building using in-house resources. The cost of materials involved in producing and displaying these was £72.

There have been no other additional costs associated with ministerial photographs.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which programmes funded by his Department are taking place in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Angola, *(c)* Burkina Faso, *(d)* Burma, *(e)* Burundi, *(f)* Central African Republic, *(g)* Chad, *(h)* Congo, *(i)* Ivory Coast, *(j)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(k)* Ethiopia, *(l)* Guinea, *(m)* Guinea Bissau, *(n)* Haiti, *(o)* Iraq, *(p)* Kenya, *(q)* Liberia, *(r)* Malawi, *(s)* Nigeria, *(t)* Pakistan, *(u)* Somalia, *(v)* Sri Lanka, *(w)* Sudan, *(x)* Uganda, *(y)* Uzbekistan, *(z)* Yemen and *(aa)* Zimbabwe; and what the cost of each such programme was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [38129]

Mr Robathan: In the past 12 months, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has funded programmes to contribute to the delivery of defence engagement objectives in: Afghanistan, Burundi, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

In the past 12 months, the MOD has not funded any programmes in: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burma, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Uzbekistan.

The programmes aim to enhance bilateral relationships and build stability overseas as part of the Government's wider foreign policy goals. They consist of a wide range of activities including (but not limited to):

Providing places on defence education and training courses in the UK (such as the Army, RAF and Navy Junior Officer Training and the Joint Services Advanced Command and Staff Course);

The deployment of UK personnel in support of permanent British Peace Support Teams and British Military Advisory and Training Teams;

The deployment of Short Term Training Teams to deliver subject specific training in country;

Advisory visits, Defence Staff Talks and Senior Leadership engagement either in the UK or in country.

In addition to MOD-specific funds, some of these activities receive funding from the tri-departmental Conflict Pool.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the cost and details of individual programmes as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the UK and other states.

Lynx Helicopters

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the terms under which the Future Lynx contract was awarded. [37183]

Peter Luff: There are currently no plans to review the terms under which the Future Lynx contract was awarded. The strategic defence and security review has confirmed that Lynx Wildcat continues to represent the best solution to deliver the combined requirement of both the Royal Navy and Army. However, as part of the Department's wider contract re-negotiating strategy all major equipment procurements will be reviewed for possible savings measures.

Military Exercises

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of training exercises were cancelled in 2010; and what exercises those were. [36076]

Mr Robathan: The following list shows the exercises that had been scheduled and subsequently cancelled in the calendar year 2010:

Exercise

Jordan Express
Malaysian Express
Steppe Eagle
Cossack Steppe
French Connection
Tricolour
Asterix
Winged Star
Glow Worm/Rattlesnake
Gobi Dust
African Thorn
Oman Express
Bald Eagle
Chartered Flight
Citadel
Crown Eagle
Destier/Aurige
Silver Eagle
Steam Drive
Top Kitten
Tunuk Warrior
Wet Gap
Work Sheet
Roman Eagle
Turtle Truss
Lion Sun 1
Lion Sun 2
Crown Pinnacle 10-4
TLP 10-5
Crown Condor
Ark Royal R2
Blue Flag
2 X Calfex
Devils Hat
Devils Horizon
First Eagle
First Rock
Guibert
Horizon
Kleiber
Gaulish
Longboat Warrior
Larksong Foxtrot
Marble Tor
Medoc
Modulex
Pathfinder
Pony Express
Ponte Vecchio/Tower Bridge
Readiness Challenge
Lion Star 1
Lion Star 2
Iron Ram/Ferro Ariete
Bass Rock
Anatolian Eagle 10
Green Flag West 10-9
Torpedo Focus 10-3
Pitch Black
Bold Avenger 10
TLP10-4
Tactical Leadership Training (TLT)
Emerald Move
RM CT2 Coy Trg
Auriga US Enterprise C2X
Rimpac 10

The proportion of cancelled exercises is normally calculated on a financial year basis. In financial year 2009-10, there were 436 scheduled training events of which 59 (13.5%) were cancelled. Figures for financial year 2010-11 will be released as part of the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect withdrawing RAF Nimrods will have on the armed forces' ability to *(a)* detect and *(b)* track foreign military operations; and if he will make a statement. [38018]

Mr Robathan: The armed forces retain a number of assets capable of detecting and tracking foreign military operations. In view of the sensitive and classified nature of some of the military tasks for which the Nimrod MRA4 was theoretically designed, I cannot comment further on these capabilities.

Nuclear Weapons

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when preliminary discussions commenced with the French government on the scope of the treaty between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the French Republic relating to joint radiographic/hydrodynamics facilities; and which teams from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment were involved in preparation of the treaty. [37493]

Peter Luff: Substantive discussions on the potential scope of a treaty between the UK and France for the construction and operation of joint radiographic facilities at Valduc, France and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), commenced in July 2010. These followed preliminary discussions based on an earlier proposal made in January 2009.

Within the Ministry of Defence these discussions were led by a multidisciplinary team including policy, technical and legal experts. Support from AWE was provided by the Directorate of Research and Applied Science.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts *(a)* have been awarded and *(b)* are expected to be awarded for the inception, design and construction of Project Hydrus at the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [37495]

Peter Luff: Project Hydrus is part of the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme and is, therefore, incorporated in the management and operation contract between the Ministry of Defence and AWE Management Ltd.

Work under this contract, in relation to Hydrus, includes the awarding of subcontracts by AWE plc for inception, design, site preparation and construction. I am withholding the details of these contracts as disclosure would prejudice commercial interests.

The collaborative Anglo-French programme, Teutates, announced by the Prime Minister on 2 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 32WS, means that Hydrus will not now proceed as originally envisaged. Construction activities will therefore not be undertaken.

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects the RAF's Hercules Fleet to retain the requisite systems and equipment for humanitarian search and rescue missions following the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [38016]

Peter Luff: The equipment used by the C-130 Hercules aircraft has not changed as a consequence of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. This includes the ability to deploy Air Sea Rescue Apparatus for the Search and Rescue role.

Territorial Waters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his officials have had with *(a)* Canadian, *(b)* US, *(c)* Norwegian and *(d)* French defence officials on maritime reconnaissance and patrol of UK territorial waters. [37265]

Mr Robathan: Ministry of Defence officials regularly discuss maritime patrol issues with their counterparts from allied nations, including Canada, the United States, Norway and France. Through these regular discussions we have worked towards better co-operation for mutual benefit.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether MQ-9 Reaper pilots are licensed under the Civil Aviation Authority for that aircraft. [37691]

Peter Luff: MQ-9 Reaper pilots are not licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority. Military pilots gain military flying qualifications following successful completion of theory, simulator and practical training. Their continuing competency to fly specific aircraft types is then the responsibility of the Military Aviation Authority and the relevant single service.

World War II

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has plans to bring forward proposals to recognise the contribution made by munitions workers to the defence and security of the UK during the second world war. [37096]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

The Government fully recognise the courage and fortitude of those who worked in munitions factories during world war II. I am considering how we can best acknowledge the contribution they made to the war effort and will provide a substantive response in due course.

JUSTICE

Courts: Closures

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for future use of the building used by Kidderminster county court after its closure. [37772]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is not vacating a building as a result of the closure. The county court currently forms a small part of the much larger operational magistrates courthouse in Kidderminster.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the level of savings which will accrue from the closure of Kidderminster County Court. [37773]

Mr Djanogly: The decision to transfer the Kidderminster county court counter service to Worcester combined court while retaining county court hearings within the existing Kidderminster building was taken in order to provide a more consistent level of service for court users. Therefore, my Department did not anticipate that there would be (non staff) operational cost savings. Consultation with the trade unions is still ongoing and therefore we are not in a position to confirm savings related to staff costs.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effects of closing Kidderminster county court on the status of the private finance initiative contract with Kidderminster magistrates court. [37774]

Mr Djanogly: There will be no impact on the status of the private finance initiative contract, which will continue to provide magistrates court buildings at Hereford, Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester.

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to renegotiate the Kidderminster court house private finance initiative contract after the closure of Kidderminster county court. [37775]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently no plans to renegotiate the private finance initiative contract after the closure of Kidderminster county court.

Legal Aid

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future provision of legal aid in respect of advice on social welfare law; and if he will make a statement. [37591]

Mr Djanogly: On 15 November 2010, the Government published proposals for reform of legal aid including social welfare law. We propose that legal aid be retained in the highest priority cases—in debt and housing when someone's home is at immediate risk, for homelessness case, and disrepair cases where health or life is at serious risk. We will retain legal aid in Community Care cases. Legal aid will also continue to be available where it is now for unlawful discrimination employment cases. Under these proposals legal aid would no longer be routinely available in other social welfare law matters.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Legal Services Commission has made of the number of legal aid funded cases that were unnecessary in the last four years. [37632]

Mr Djanogly: Neither my Department nor the Legal Services Commission has made any such assessment. Cases granted legal aid funding will have satisfied the current merits test (for civil legal aid) or the interests of justice test (for criminal legal aid). The proposals set within the recent legal aid consultation are designed to encourage people to explore alternative methods of dispute resolution and, where possible, to resolve their problems without recourse to the courts. The aim is to create a stable and sustainable system that ensures access to public funding in those cases that really require it, the protection of the most vulnerable in our society and the efficient performance of our justice system.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding the Legal Services Commission provided from the legal aid budget for legal assistance and representation relating to multi-party actions in each of the last 10 years. [38177]

Mr Djanogly: Multi-party action legal aid expenditure for each of the last 10 years, net of the legal aid costs recovered from the opposing party in cases where the party in receipt of legal aid succeeds, is shown as follows.

	£ million
2000-01	20.2
2001-02	16.6
2002-03	14.9
2003-04	8.4
2004-05	7.7
2005-06	3.2
2006-07	[1]-3.3
2007-08	[1]-0.6
2008-09	[1]-2.6
2009-10	0.2

[1] Recovery

The reduction in the net expenditure is due to a number of factors, including, the removal of personal injury from the scope of legal aid, and the introduction of 'risk rates' for multi-party actions where legal aid is paid at a third of the market rates throughout the duration of those cases where the full legal costs are likely to be recovered from the opposing party. The high spend in the early 2000s was due to discontinuing a number of very expensive actions, and the recoveries in the mid 2000s were due to success in a number of child abuse cases.

Legal Aid: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency received legal aid in each of the last five years. [37986]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The LSC does not record the grant of legal aid by constituency. However, the following tables show the numbers of acts of assistance based on legal aid providers with postcodes falling within *(a)* the Cumbria procurement area and *(b)* the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone advice, Community Legal Advice Centres, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme, telephone triage, or family mediation. These figures are unavailable at a constituency level.

Cumbria Procurement Area: Acts of assistance

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Civil Representation certificates issued	1,200	1,300	1,200	1,000	1,100
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	7,100	7,600	6,800	7,400	7,700
Crime Lower claim volumes	10,100	9,200	8,900	9,300	8,800
Crime Higher case volumes	700	700	800	1,100	1,100
Total	19,100	18,800	17,700	18,800	18,700

Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency: Acts of assistance

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Civil Representation certificates issued	100	100	100	100	100
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	1,900	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,500

Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency: Acts of assistance

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Crime Lower claim volumes	1,300	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,200
Crime Higher case volumes	20	20	40	40	90
Total	3,320	3,720	3,840	3,940	3,890

Legal Aid: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in *(a)* London and *(b)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency received legal aid in each of the last five years. [37623]

Mr Djanogly: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not record the number of people who receive legal aid, but instead records the number of 'acts of assistance'. One individual may receive a number of separate acts of assistance, and one act of assistance can help more than one person.

The LSC does not record the grant of legal aid by constituency. However, the tables below show the numbers of acts of assistance based on legal aid providers with postcodes falling within *(a)* London and *(b)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency.

The figures do not include legal aid received via telephone advice, Community Legal Advice Centres, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme, telephone triage, or family mediation. These figures are unavailable at a constituency level.

London—acts of assistance

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	27,000	27,000	24,000	27,000	29,000
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	154,000	159,000	154,000	177,000	174,000
Crime Lower claim volumes	211,000	204,000	189,000	209,000	214,000
Crime Higher case volumes	21,000	20,000	23,000	26,000	28,000
Total	413,000	410,000	390,000	439,000	445,000

Bethnal Green and Bow constituency—acts of assistance

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Civil Representation certificates issued	850	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,300
Legal Help New Matter Starts in Civil and Immigration	6,650	7,550	9,500	13,100	11,500
Crime Lower claim volumes	2,800	2,900	2,700	4,300	5,800
Crime Higher case volumes	350	400	500	550	750
Total	10,650	12,100	13,900	19,050	19,350

Legal Aid: Prisoners

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing legal aid to prisoners in respect of judicial review proceedings in each of the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of defending against judicial review proceedings for prisoners *(a)* in receipt of legal aid and *(b)* not in receipt of legal aid. [37980]

Mr Djanogly: It is not possible to estimate the cost of providing legal aid to prisoners in judicial review proceedings, as the Legal Services Commission does not distinguish between prisoners and non-prisoners in granting legal aid for judicial reviews.

With regards to the costs incurred by the Ministry of Justice and its associated bodies in defending itself against judicial review proceedings, it is not possible to provide accurate and up to date figures in the time frame requested. I will write to the hon. Member when this is available and place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Legal Aid: Social Security Benefits

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effects of his proposed reductions in expenditure on legal aid provision for social welfare issues on people in Coventry. [37908]

Mr Djanogly: There is no intention to conduct such an assessment. Impact assessments will be published alongside any response to the legal aid consultation in due course, however these are unlikely to contain any detailed geographic analysis of impacts.

Magistrates Courts

Mark Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what ongoing private finance initiative contractual obligations are in place in respect of Kidderminster magistrates court. [37771]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has on-going private financial contractual obligations for the magistrates courts provided under the Herford and Worchester PFI contract (namely Hereford, Kidderminster, Redditch and Worcester) which runs from 28 February 2000 for 25 years.

Prisoners' Release

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the availability of parole board hearings for persons imprisoned for public protection. [38026]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice and the Parole Board meet regularly to assess the Parole Board's capacity to hold oral hearings for persons imprisoned for public protection. Joint working and careful planning have enabled the Parole Board to sit more oral hearing panels a month.

The following table shows the number of IPP (Imprisonment for Public Protection) cases considered by the Parole Board:

	Number
2006-07	74
2007-08	253
2008-09	556
2009-10	1,432
2010-11 (to 31 December 2010)	[1]1,600

[1] Provisional

Prisoners: Health

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing a generic health treatment community order; and whether he has made an estimate of the number of people who could be subject to such orders as an alternative to a short prison sentence in a year; [37544]

(2) whether he has plans to make psychiatric reports available to courts in respect of defendants with mental health disorders who may be eligible for a mental health treatment requirement pursuant to a community order; [37545]

(3) what plans he has to offer *(a)* mental health, *(b)* alcohol and *(c)* drug treatment to offenders sentenced to community orders including health treatment requirements. [37546]

Mr Blunt: : The Government's proposals for improving rehabilitation outcomes, including through improved access to mental health, drugs or alcohol treatment services, are set out in 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders', published on 7 December.

This consultation document also includes proposals for making better use of community sentences to punish and rehabilitate offenders providing effective alternatives to custody where community-based punishment and treatment may be more appropriate. In particular, we are consulting on options on how health treatment requirements should be formulated as part of community orders, to better motivate and engage offenders into treatment for mental health, drugs and alcohol problems. The consultation period will end on 4 March and we will publish the Government's response in May 2011.

HEALTH

Biomedical Research

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he has allocated for biomedical research over the period of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [38014]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's revenue allocations for research and development are shown in the following table.

	£ million
2011-12	1,004
2012-13	1,030
2013-14	1,059
2014-15	1,089

The Department does not allocate funding specifically for biomedical research. It funds research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department of Health Policy Research Programme. The NIHR funds a range of health research programmes and infrastructure including biomedical research centres and biomedical research units.

Cancer: Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria the Cancer Drugs Fund will use to assess the appropriateness of funding a treatment; and whether he has any plans to establish an advisory board on such criteria. [37973]

Mr Simon Burns: We have consulted on our plans for the design of the Cancer Drugs Fund and our consultation closed on 19 January. Decisions on the implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund will be taken once the responses to the consultation have been considered.

Cancer: Health Education

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's implementation plan for cancer information prescriptions. [37923]

Paul Burstow: On 11 January, we published "Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. The strategy reports that the National Cancer Action Team, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and Cancer Research UK, is supporting the use of information prescriptions (IPs) so that every cancer patient in England should be able to benefit over the lifetime of the strategy. Work is continuing to develop the use of IPs throughout the cancer pathway.

The implementation framework for cancer IPs is being piloted by a number of beacon sites in national health service trusts. The framework is now being finalised to reflect the early learning from the sites, the direction set by the new strategy and plans to make IPs more accessible to hard to reach groups. We expect to publish the final implementation framework in the spring.

Carers: Older People

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the conclusions and recommendations of the Age UK report, Invisible but Invaluable. [37759]

Paul Burstow: This Government welcomes the Age UK report, "Invisible but Invaluable". We do recognise the valuable contribution made by older carers, many of whom spend a significant proportion of their life providing unpaid support to family members or friends. Local authorities and the national health service have a vital role to play in identifying and supporting more carers.

In November 2010, the Government published "Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy". The Strategy is a cross Government strategy and shows how Government intend to support carers in terms of the outcomes and plans of health, social care, education and other services across Government. Two of the key recommendations were:

> supporting those with caring responsibilities to identify themselves as carers at an early stage, recognising the value of their contribution and involving them from the outset both in designing local care provision and in planning individual care packages; and
>
> enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational and personalised support both for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.

These have been supported by:

> the Department has provided funding of over £63,000 plus VAT for the training of up to 200 general practitioners (GPs) and practice staff in the current financial year. As a result of this training, GPs and practice staff will be better able to identify and support carers; and
>
> an additional £400 million in primary care trust (PCT) baselines to support the provision of breaks for carers. The "Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2011-12" indicates that PCTs should pool budgets with local authorities to provide carers' breaks, as far as possible, via direct payments or personal health budgets. This money is not ring fenced but for 2011-12, PCTs should agree policies, plans and budgets to support carers with local authorities and local carers' organisations, and make them available to local people.

Community Health Services: Fuels

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the effects of increases in fuel prices on district nurses and health visitors in the NHS who use their own cars for work; and if he will make a statement. [37976]

Mr Simon Burns: Rates of reimbursement for travelling expenses are contained in the national health service terms and conditions handbook. These apply to district nurses and health visitors unless alternative arrangements have been agreed locally. Any changes to national rates of reimbursement would be agreed by the NHS Staff Council.

Proposals for a new national system of reimbursing travel expenses were published by the NHS Staff Council on 14 October 2010. If agreed the proposal provides a system that is simpler, fairer, more transparent and better for the environment. The proposal also includes a review mechanism which will allow rates to reflect the changing cost of motoring.

These new rates of reimbursement would apply to journeys made on and after 1 July 2013. Existing rates will apply until then.

Departmental Secondments

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what secondments *(a)* GlaxoSmithKline, *(b)* Pfizer, *(c)* Sanofi-aventis, *(d)* Astra Zeneca and *(e)* Novartis have made to his Department in each of the last five years; for what (i) periods and (ii) tasks the secondments were made; whether secondments of staff from his Department have been made to those firms; and for what (A) periods and (B) tasks. [38176]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no secondments to, or from, the Department and GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, Sanofi-aventis, Astra Zeneca or Novartis in any of the last five years.

Fertility: Medical Treatments

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of fertility treatment on the NHS; how many women over the age of 40-years-old received infertility treatment on the NHS in the most recent quarter for which figures are available; what assessment he has made of the effects of such provision on NHS budgets; and if he will make a statement. [38056]

Anne Milton: No recent assessment has been made of the availability of fertility treatment on the national health service, and information about the number of women over the age of 40-years-old who have received NHS funded infertility treatment is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to make commissioning decisions based on clinical evidence and discussions with local general practitioner commissioners, secondary care clinicians and providers, in order to meet their statutory responsibilities.

The NHS deputy chief executive, David Flory, wrote to PCT commissioners on 11 January 2011 to highlight that they should have regard to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence fertility guidelines, when considering commissioning services, including the recommendation that up to three cycles of in vitro fertilisation are offered to eligible couples where the woman is aged between 23 and 39.

The Department also supports Infertility Network UK, the leading fertility patient organisation, to work in partnership with PCTs to encourage good practice in the provision of fertility services. This work is ongoing.

General Practitioners

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place to monitor expenditure on the GP consortia pathfinder programme. [37926]

Mr Simon Burns: We have no plans to monitor expenditure centrally on the general practitioner (GP) consortia pathfinder programme.

Primary care trust (PCT) clusters will support the development of all emerging GP consortia, including pathfinders, through offering support, including a fund of £2 per head for support in the development of their consortia. This can be used flexibly to fund, for example, clinical backfill, training and organisational development. Clusters will also provide support through a qualified or accredited senior finance manager; an organisational development expert/facilitator; an individual with expertise of appropriate governance arrangements or corporate affairs and a commissioning expert.

Subject to the legislative process, GP consortia will be accountable to the NHS Commissioning Board for managing public funds and for the outcomes they achieve.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the ratio of GPs to population in *(a)* Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [37487]

Mr Simon Burns: General practitioner (GP) work force census data are not available by county or constituency area. Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency is contained within and serviced by Blackpool Primary Care Trust (PCT) and North Lancashire PCT. The ratio of GPs per 100,000 head of population for Blackpool PCT is 70 and for North Lancashire PCT is 63.8.

The five PCTs provided cover all the districts of Lancashire so for Lancashire the ratio of GPs per 100,000 head of population is 61.2 and for England the ratio is 69.3.

The information is collected by the NHS Information Centre and is shown in the following table:

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per head of population in select areas, as at 30 September 2009

	GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)	*GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population*
England	35,917	69.3
Lancashire	885	61.2
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	95	67.9
Blackpool PCT	98	70.0
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	209	63.8
Central Lancashire PCT	262	57.2
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	221	58.0

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Office for National Statistics, 2009 Final Mid-Year Population Estimates (2001 census based), adjusted May 2010 to reflect revisions to migration methodology

Health

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that there is a sufficient and appropriately qualified multi-disciplinary public health workforce at local authority level; and if he will take steps to ensure that public health continues to be a highly-regarded career path for both medical and non-medical graduates. [38086]

Anne Milton: Working with representative and professional organisations the public health work force strategy will be published in autumn 2011. It will set out how to secure the supply of highly trained and motivated staff, with the skills needed across the range of public health interventions, including those in local authorities who will provide public health advice and commission services.

Health: Private Sector

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will assess the likely effects of including private healthcare companies in the commissioning process in the light of international experience; [37780]

(2) what mechanisms he plans to put in place to prevent private healthcare companies participating in the commissioning process solely for the purpose of profiteering. [37781]

Mr Simon Burns: External private organisations are currently widely used by primary care trusts to support the commissioning process. There is evidence that in many cases external organisations have succeeded in improving commissioning processes and can provide support in key areas such as data analysis and commercial skills.

General practitioner consortia will receive a maximum management allowance to reflect the costs associated with commissioning. They will have the freedom to decide what commissioning activities they undertake for themselves, and for what activities they choose to buy in support from external organisations, including local authorities, private and voluntary sector bodies.

The Department does not intend to monitor how consortia spend their management allowance, as consortia will have the freedom to use their resources in ways that achieve the best and most cost-efficient outcomes for patients. Consortia will, however, need to take account of value for money when contracting with external organisations.

Hearing: Babies

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism he plans to put in place for the delivery of quality assurance for the newborn hearing screening programme by Public Health England; and if he will make a statement. [37770]

Anne Milton: The Public Health White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England', makes clear that Public Health England will be responsible for funding and ensuring the provision of screening services in the future. Part of its role will be to design and provide quality assurance and monitoring for all screening programmes including the NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme.

Hospital Beds

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of patients medically fit for discharge who remained in hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [36166]

Paul Burstow: The most recent estimate of the cost of an excess bed-day in an English hospital in 2009-10 is about £250.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36972]

Anne Milton: Lord Young's review of health and safety laws and the compensation culture, Common Sense Common Safety, carried out for the Prime Minister, was published on 15 October 2010.

Actions to implement Lord Young's recommendations are being taken forward across Government. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for implementing the recommendation to combine health and safety inspections and food safety inspections undertaken by local authorities and the other recommendations relating to food safety. This work is being taken forward by the FSA in line with the timetable set out in the report.

Influenza: Newton Abbot

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the availability of the influenza vaccine in Newton Abbot constituency. [36168]

Anne Milton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Warrington North (Helen Jones) on 19 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 850-51W.

Maternal Mortality

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the five most prevalent causes of maternal mortality were in the last 10 years. [37849]

Anne Milton: The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health publishes a report once every three years; 'Saving Mothers' Lives' (formerly entitled 'Why Mothers Die'). The most recent, published in December 2007, covered the years 2003-05. This publication gives numbers of deaths in the United Kingdom reported to the inquiry in the three-year periods considered and divides them into deaths directly and indirectly due to pregnancy and childbirth.

The data in the table are from the confidential inquiry report 'Saving Mothers Lives'. The figures supplied are for the last 10 years for which data are available.

	Cause of death	*1994-96*	*1997-99*	*2000-02*	*2003-05*
1	Cardiac	39	35	44	48
2	Coincidental	36	29	36	55
3	Thrombosis/thromboembolism	48	35	30	41
4	Psychiatric	9	15	16	18
5	Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia	20	16	14	18
	Total	152	130	140	180

Notes:

1. Coincidental causes means deaths linked to pregnancy only by a temporal association in that they occurred during pregnancy or within six weeks of birth.
2. The total number of deaths over the most recent period of 2003-05 represented approximately 0.008% of the total number of maternities (2,114,004).
3. The next Maternal Death Enquiry Review (2006-08) is due to be published in March.

Medical Equipment: Expenditure

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms there are to ensure the NHS recovers medical aids loaned to patients and others; [38076]

(2) what estimate he has made of the expenditure by the NHS on medical aids in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [38106]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of the local national health service to monitor and arrange for the recovery of medical aids, where this is safe and cost-effective.

Information on the expenditure by the NHS on medical aids is not held centrally as it is Government policy to reduce burden on local councils and primary care trusts who would be the bodies responsible for collecting these data.

NHS: Finance

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* criteria to be applied and *(b)* evidential basis is for the proposed (i) health ringfence and (ii) health premium. [38085]

Anne Milton: From April 2013, upper tier and unitary local authorities will receive a new ring-fenced public health grant, in order to improve the health of their local population. The size of the ring-fenced grant will be based on relative population health need and weighted for inequalities. We are currently consulting on the range of activity for which local authorities will take responsibility and this will be key in determining the size of the grant. Work is also ongoing to determine baseline spending on public health activities in the national health service and this will inform the process of determining the size of the local authority public health grant. Our consultation also seeks views on the approach we should take to public health allocations.

The new health premium will be designed to incentivise action to reduce health inequalities and reward progress in improving the health of the local population, based on elements of the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

We will develop the formula for the health premium in an open and transparent way and are consulting on both the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the approach we should take to the premium itself in order to get the detail right, ensuring that it is fair, rewards areas for their achievements, and incentivises reductions in health inequalities. We intend to establish a stakeholder group to assist in this process.

Pain

Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to provide training on chronic pain for *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* nurses. [38059]

Anne Milton: The content and standard of health care training is the responsibility of the independent regulatory bodies. Their role is that of custodian of quality standards in education and practice.

The General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), are the respective independent bodies with regulatory responsibility for general practitioner (GP) and nurse education standards.

Both bodies have established curricular that incorporates mandatory learning outcomes for the deterrence and treatment of chronic pain.

The Royal College of General Practitioners has chosen chronic pain as a clinical priority area during 2011-13. A clinical champion will be appointed to lead this area of work from April 2011. Their work will address the training needs of front-line GPs and improve community-based provision of pain management.

The NMC has recently revised their standards for nurse pre-registration education. The new standards contain essential skills clusters that are incorporated into all nurse education programmes. The skills associated with these clusters are implicit throughout the required standards and include training and knowledge on prevention and treatment of chronic pain.

Prescription Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what is the cost per quality adjusted life year for each drug with patient numbers of less than 500 approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in the last five years. [37974]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not held by the Department. I have asked the chief executive of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to write to the hon. Member with this information. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Prescriptions

Duncan Hames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for medicines which are available over-the-counter in pharmacies in each of the last three years; how many such prescriptions were provided free of charge; and what the cost to the NHS was of *(a)* the drugs provided and *(b)* their processing. [37677]

Mr Simon Burns: Estimates of over-the-counter medicines are available only for those medicines classified as General Sales List ('GSL' medicines) or Pharmacy only medicines ('P' medicines). The total number of items for these medicines is not available except at disproportionate cost. However, information on the number of General Sales List and Pharmacy only prescription items that were dispensed free at the point of dispensing (including items dispensed to patients holding a pre-payment certificate) are available.

These figures, together with the net ingredient cost, and the cost to the national health service of processing the prescriptions, for the three most recent years available, are shown in the following table.

Estimate of GSL and P medicines exempt from prescription charges at the point of dispensing and dispensed by pharmacies in England from 2007-08 to 2009-10[1,2]

£000

Financial year	*Prescription items*[3]	*Net ingredient cost*	*Processing cost*[4]
2007-08	136,094	531,585	3,160
2008-09	145,450	517,739	3,069
2009-10	155,649	551,410	2,922

[1] Data have been supplied for medicines which have a General Sales List (GSL) or Pharmacy only medicine (P) marketing authorisation only. Unlicensed medicines and devices have been excluded.

[2] Data include some Prescription Only Medicines (POM) which also have a GSL/P marketing authorisation for different pack sizes. This is because dispensing contractors are not always required to inform NHS RxS of the pack size they have used to meet the prescription order, therefore some items recorded against a POM pack size may have been supplied using smaller GSL or P packs.

[3] Prescription items are the number of times a P or GSL medicine appears on a dispensed prescription form which was exempt at the point of dispensing. This includes items which have been supplied to patients who hold a pre-payment certificate.

[4] Processing costs include all the related NHS RxS administrative expenditure including staff, information technology maintenance and overheads directly related to processing prescriptions. This does not include NHS RxS capital expenditure and depreciation or any other NHS costs associated with the prescribing or dispensing of the medicine to the patient.

Source:

NHS Prescription Services (NHS RxS) Information Systems, NHS RxS Common Drug Reference Database and NHS Business Services Authority Costing Model

Preventive Medicine

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to take steps to maintain a focus on preventative healthcare in his proposals for reform of the NHS. [38084]

Anne Milton: The White Paper 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England', sets out the Government's vision for public health. Subject to Parliament, the Government will create a new public health service—Public Health England—with a renewed focus on health prevention, health protection and improvement.

The Government have reinforced their commitment to tackling the preventable causes of ill-health by announcing their intention to give local authorities ring-fenced public health budgets to improve the health of their local population. A new health premium will reward progress on specific public health outcomes.

We are currently consulting on the detail of these proposals.

Speech Therapy: Worcestershire

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on levels of provision for speech and language therapy in Worcestershire; and if he will assess the adequacy of such provision in comparison with national levels. [37485]

Paul Burstow: The most recent data for 2009-10 are recorded in the following table and provide a count and percentage of all appointments for speech and language therapy and total out-patient appointments for Worcestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and England.

The provision of services such as speech and language therapy is a matter for local national health service and authority decision after assessment of local-area needs.

	Total out-patient appointments	*Number of speech and language appointments*	*Percentage of all appointments which are speech/ language*
England	84,198,458	49,652	0.059
Worcestershire PCT	984,026	284	0.029

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department allocated to apprenticeships for young people in each of the last three years. [37554]

Mr Hayes: The following table contains apprenticeship expenditure figures for 16 to 18-year-olds for the last three years:

16 to 18 apprenticeships

	Expenditure (£ million)
2007-08	604
2008-09	630
2009-10	688

The 16 to 18 apprenticeships budget for the 2010-11 financial year is currently £780 million and funding for 16 to 18 apprenticeships will increase again to £799 million in 2011-12. This will provide funding for more than 133,000 starts for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of apprenticeships which will be created in the next 12 months *(a)* in Liverpool Wavertree constituency and *(b)* England. [38063]

Mr Hayes: The apprenticeships programme is demand-led, so the Government do not set specific targets for apprenticeships by constituency. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) operates a national system to fund post 19 further education and training. Funding allocations to colleges and providers reflect the pattern of employer demand and funding is moved in year to reflect local need. The National Apprenticeship Service work with local providers and employers in Liverpool Wavertree to make apprenticeship places available where there is demand.

We are committed to have funding in place to train over 350,000 apprentices in England in the 2010/11 academic year. For the 2011/12 academic year, our indicative forecast is for over 360,000 apprenticeship places.

Apprentices: Engineering

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people took up an engineering apprenticeship in *(a)* Britain, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Carlisle in 2009-10. [35992]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of apprenticeship starts by young people (aged under 19) on the engineering framework in England, Cumbria local authority and Carlisle parliamentary constituency in the 2009/10 academic year.

Apprenticeship programme starts by young people (aged under 19) on the engineering framework in England, Cumbria local authority and Carlisle constituency, 2009/10

Geography	*Apprenticeship starts*
Carlisle parliamentary constituency	20
Cumbria local authority	300
England	7,800

Notes:
1. England and local authority figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Parliamentary constituency figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Age is based on age at the start of the programme.
3. Geographic information is based upon the home postcode of the learner. The England total figure includes those learners studying in England where the postcode is not known or outside of England.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 27 January 2011

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current

Burton's Foods: Moreton

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the merits of offering support for the continued operation of Burton's Foods Factory in Moreton. [37621]

Mr Prisk: No application for public funding to support the continued operation of the Moreton factory has been submitted by Burton's Foods. If received, any such application would be assessed in line with the Department's standard procedures.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what grants were paid to Burton's Foods Factory in Moreton in 2009-10. [37694]

Mr Prisk: No publicly-funded grants were paid to the Burton's Foods factory at Moreton during the period in question.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will match any grant offered to Burton's Foods Factory in Moreton by the Scottish Government and Welsh Assembly Government in order to secure jobs in England. [37695]

Mr Prisk: Any application for grant funding for Burton's Foods' operations in England will be considered on its merits. According to information provided by the Welsh and Scottish devolved Administrations, no grants have been offered to support the investments in Burton's facilities at Edinburgh and Llantarnam announced at the same time as the company's decision to close the Moreton plant.

Consumer Credit: Licensing

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many consumer credit licences under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 were *(a)* issued or renewed and *(b)* revoked for failure to comply with debt management guidance by the Office of Fair Trading in each year since 2005. [37571]

Mr Davey: Between 2005 and 2010 The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) issued or renewed a total of 102,691 consumer credit licences. This breaks down as follows:

23,503 licences were issued in 2005-06;

21,777 in 2006-07;

21,356 in 2007-08;

20,474 in 2008-09; and

15,581 in 2009-10.

In 2007-08, the OFT issued 2,551 licences with the debt counselling and/or debt adjusting categories required by businesses wishing to operate in the debt management sector. This figure increased to 3,780 for the period 2009-10. Please note that only a small percentage of traders granted consumer credit licences actually engage in debt management activities.

Between 2005 and 2010 the OFT issued a total of 44 minded to refuse or revoke or minded to refuse a variation application or minded to compulsorily vary notices to debt management companies. Out of 44 notices, non-compliances with the debt management guidance were cited in 40 cases. Of these 40 cases, the licences of 14 traders were successfully revoked or their applications were refused but three of these decisions are subject to appeal to the first tier consumer Credit Appeals Tribunal.

This figure (14) breaks down as follows:

one licence was revoked in 2007-08;

one licence application was refused in 2008-09;

10 licences were refused or revoked in 2009-10; and

two licence applications, including a variation application, were refused in 2010-11.

Of the remaining 27 cases, a further three licences were surrendered and four applications were withdrawn following issue of the OFT's notices. Adjudicators, acting on behalf of the OFT, also made determinations favourable to 10 businesses which permitted them to continue to trade, subject to requirements or undertakings being imposed on their licences. Decisions on the licence status of ten remaining cases have yet to be determined.

Since April 2008 when reforms to the Consumer Credit Act 1974 came into effect the OFT has issued 185 warning letters and 951 advisory letters to traders.

The OFT announced on 28 January 2011 action taken as a follow up to a review of compliance in the debt management sector. This action involves 129 businesses and has already resulted in 35 licences being surrendered and formal action to revoke licences being taken against another eight licence holders. The OFT is considering further action against a number of other businesses.

Consumers: Advisory Services

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to provide consumer advice in deprived communities. [37503]

Mr Davey: This Department is leading work aimed at making the provision of information, advice and education to consumers simpler and more effective. The organisations at the focus of this work are Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland. These are the umbrella organisations for the citizens advice bureaux that have a unique track record in providing advice to citizens, often those who are vulnerable or come from deprived communities. This includes consumer advice. In 2009/10 Citizens Advice helped 2.1 million people with over seven million problems at 3,500 locations in England and Wales.

This Department is also involved with Consumer Direct (CD) which is an online and telephone advice service funded and managed by the Office of Fair Trading. It handles approximately 1.7 million telephone calls and emails annually often helping those who are vulnerable or come from deprived communities.

Although at the national level CD does not specifically target communities, individual CD centres work with a range of community groups to give targeted advice and information. 40% of the contacts handled by CD are from people whose annual household income is less than £20,000.

This Department is also discussing with the consumer organisation Which? about making wider use of its online information and thereby reducing the costs to the taxpayer of providing such information.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department and its predecessors have employed in each year since 2000. [37653]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills employs staff with qualifications recognised by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) and will reimburse these staff for their subscriptions to CILIP. No records are kept as to whether these staff are chartered members.

The following table shows the number of BIS staff with CILIP recognised qualifications.

	Number of people with CILIP recognised qualifications
2005	81
2006	78
2007	66
2008	63
2009	63
2010	64
2011	43

Departmental Regulation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what regulations his Department has removed since 6 May 2010. [37403]

Mr Prisk: Since May 2010 the Department has launched a review of employment law and is conducting a fundamental review scrutinising the overall stock of BIS regulation, alongside legacy measures inherited from the previous Administration. These have yet to conclude and so to date no significant regulations have been revoked.

Departmental Responsibilities

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 1005-06W, on the Scottish Government First Minister, in what capacity Tavish Scott MSP attended the meeting; and whether any other Members of the Scottish Parliament were invited to attend. [37906]

Mr Davey: Tavish Scott MSP attended the meeting in his capacity as leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats. No other Members of the Scottish Parliament were invited to attend.

Environment Protection

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the green economy roadmap. [38023]

Mr Prisk: The Green Economy Roadmap is a joint initiative between three Departments, BIS, DECC and DEFRA, to provide clarity to business on the green economy, the Government's policy intentions and the implications for business over the next 10 years. I have discussed plans for the roadmap with my ministerial counterparts in both DECC and DEFRA and we intend to publish this coming April.

Exports

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to extend the ban on exports of ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices beyond Afghanistan and Iraq. [37883]

Mr Prisk: The Government currently have no plans to bring forward controls on the export of ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices beyond Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the sale of ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices sourced from abroad to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq by UK-based companies since January 2010. [37884]

Mr Prisk: Neither my the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills nor I have had any meetings on the issue of bomb detectors this year.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on ensuring the export ban of ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices to Afghanistan and Iraq is enforced. [37885]

Mr Prisk: No such discussions have taken place with the Secretary of State for the Home Department. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are the responsible enforcement authority for strategic export controls. HMRC works with the UK Border Agency to enforce prohibitions on the exportation of military equipment.

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will work with his EU counterparts towards implementing an EU-wide ban on the export of ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices. [37886]

Mr Prisk: Yes.

Exports: Military Aircraft

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when the most recent export licences were granted for components for *(a)* F-15 aircraft, *(b)* F-16 aircraft and *(c)* Apache helicopters (i) directly to Israel and (ii) to the US for incorporation with the final customer being Israel. [37565]

Mr Prisk: The most recent licences the Government have issued, with dates, are as follows:

Components for F-16 aircraft exported to the US for incorporation, with the ultimate end user being Israel—January 2006 (components for military aircraft head-down displays and military aircraft head-down display equipment);

Components for Apache helicopters exported to the US for incorporation, with the ultimate end user being Israel—January 2006 (components for combat helicopters).

Our records for the last 10 years show no components have been supplied direct to Israel for Apache helicopters, F-15, or F-16 aircraft and no components have been supplied to the US for incorporation for F-15 aircraft, with the final customer being Israel.

Further Education: VAT

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what requirements arising from EU regulations govern the exemption from value added tax or zero-rating of buildings for sixth form and further education colleges in respect of *(a)* entirely new-build colleges, *(b)* extensions or new buildings for existing colleges and *(c)* adjustments, conversions and maintenance work within existing colleges. [37512]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

No VAT exemptions apply to the construction of buildings.

EU law allows the UK to continue to apply zero rates that were in force on 1 January 1991.

In the construction field, zero rates are applied by the UK to the construction of new dwellings, communal residential buildings, and buildings to be used by charities for specific purposes, namely as village halls or for non-business activities. Works of alteration, which may include extensions, adjustments and conversions, are zero-rated when they are carried out to listed buildings which are dwellings, communal residential buildings and charity buildings.

Works of repair and maintenance are outside the scope of these zero rates and have always been liable to VAT.

Sixth form colleges and further education colleges may qualify for the zero rate if they are charities and use their buildings solely for non-business purposes.

Higher Education: North West

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people normally resident in Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency applied to attend university to start in the academic year *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [37305]

Mr Willetts: The information requested is in the following table:

Applicants to full-time undergraduate courses via UCAS from Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency for entry in academic year 2009/10 and 2010/11

Parliamentary constituency	*2009/10*	*2010/11*
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	808	865

Note:

Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency has been identified using the home postcode regardless of declared area of permanent residence.

Source:

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

At 24 January 2011, 678 people from Blackpool North and Cleveleys constituency had applied for entry in academic year 2011/12. Final UCAS data for 2011/12 will be available in January 2012.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the merits of providing a small budget to local economic partnerships for the purpose of establishing a secretariat which would not be under the control of a single organisation. [37784]

Mr Prisk: As set out in the Local Growth White Paper local enterprise partnerships will be expected to fund their own day-to-day running costs. To support local enterprise partnerships in their development we have recently announced a capacity fund to help them understand the real issues facing local businesses in their localities. More detail on this fund will follow shortly.

National Union of Students: Membership

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) if he will bring forward proposals to reform the membership of rules for student unions and the National Union of Students so that membership is by voluntary opt-in; [37120]

(2) if he will review the funding arrangement for the National Union of Students for the purposes of establishing voluntary membership funding arrangements. [37121]

Mr Willetts: I do not believe there is a need to change the existing funding and membership arrangements. Individual students' unions are not automatically members of the National Union of Students (NUS). Their choice, whether to affiliate or not, will be based on consultation with their local student members. If they decide to affiliate, they pay an annual subscription to the NUS and their local members automatically become NUS members.

Students have the right, under Part II of the Education Act 1994, to opt-out of membership of their local students' union, and by effect also from the NUS.

Office of Fair Trading: Complaints

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many complaints relating to the practice of debt management companies the Office of Fair Trading has received in each year since 2005; and how many such complaints resulted in the revocation of a company's licence. [37569]

Mr Davey: During the period 2005-11 the Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) Enquiries and Reporting Centre received a total of 985 complaints about debt management companies.

This complaint total is broken down as follows:

82 complaints were received in 2005

109 complaints were received in 2006 and in 2007

107 complaints were received in 2008;

301 complaints were received in 2009;

350 were received in 2010; and, finally

19 complaints have been received by the OFT during the period 2010-11.

Out of 44 minded to refuse or revoke of minded to refuse a variation application or minded to compulsorily vary notices that the OFT issued to debt management companies during the period 2005-11, consumer and other stakeholder complaint evidence was cited in 22 notices.

Older Workers: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of workers aged 65 years in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency who are likely to remain in the work force for an additional year following the end of the default retirement age. [37985]

Mr Davey: Our impact assessment estimates that around 6,000 additional workers are likely to remain in the work force across the UK in the first year. We do not have data from which to produce robust estimates on the proportion likely to remain in the work force at the sub-regional level. The full impact assessment was published on 13 January and is available at:

http://bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/p/11-634-phasing-out-default-retirement-age-impact-assessment.pdf

Overseas Students: Bangladesh

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many postgraduate students from Bangladesh were enrolled at a university in the UK in each of the last five years; [37583]

(2) how many students from Bangladesh were enrolled on an undergraduate course in the UK in each of the last five years. [37584]

Mr Willetts: The number of Bangladesh-domiciled postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments at UK higher education institutions are shown in the table, for the academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will become available from January 2012.

Bangladesh-domiciled postgraduate and undergraduate enrolments[1]. UK higher education institutions[2]. Academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*	*Total*
2005/06	965	1,135	2,100
2006/07	1,210	1,325	2,535
2007/08	1,445	1,370	2,815
2008/09	1,810	1,675	3,485
2009/10	2,360	1,810	4,170

[1] Covers enrolments of all ages to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open University.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population.
2. Figures in the table have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Overseas Students: Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students from Yemen were enrolled on a postgraduate course in the UK in each of the last five years; [37586]

(2) how many students from Yemen were enrolled on undergraduate courses in the UK in each of the last five years. [37588]

Mr Willetts: The latest available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2010/11 academic year will be available in January 2012.

Yemen domiciled enrolments[1] by level of study UK higher education institutions[2]. Academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10

Academic year	*Postgraduate*	*Undergraduate*	*Total*
2005/06	60	95	155
2006/07	90	100	190
2007/08	65	100	165
2008/09	75	65	140
2009/10	65	70	135

[1] Covers both full-time and part-time enrolments of all ages.

[2] No Yemen domiciled enrolments were recorded as studying at the Open University in these years. As OU courses are delivered by distance learning, overseas students are likely to stay in their own country to study.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

EDUCATION

Children in Care

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what proportion of children under the age of five left care, where care is defined as subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order, or placement for adoption, and were adopted in each year from 1995 to 2010. [28908]

Tim Loughton: The percentage of children, under the age of five, subject to a care order, police protection order or emergency protection order or placed for adoption who left care through adoption each year ending 31 March 1995 to 2010 is shown in the following table.

Percentage of children under the age of five subject to a care order, police protection order, emergency protection order or who were placed for adoption who were adopted[1, 2, 3, 4]. Years ending 31 March 1995 to 2010. Coverage: England

	Children adopted (percentage)
1995[5]	39
1996[5]	39
1997[5]	41
1998[6]	48
1999[6]	47
2000[6]	54
2001[6]	58
2002[6]	59
2003[6]	61
2004[5]	55
2005[5]	56
2006[5]	55
2007[5]	51
2008[5]	50
2009[5]	51
2010[5]	50

[1] Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[4] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which covered all children looked after.

[6] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

Source:

SSDA903

Curriculum

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether *(a)* academies and *(b)* free schools will be subject to national curriculum changes made by his Department. [32765]

Mr Gibb: Academies and free schools are not required to follow the National Curriculum. However, they are required to teach a broad and balanced curriculum.

The new National Curriculum will continue to be a statutory requirement for maintained schools and will also retain its importance as a national benchmark of excellence for all schools, including academies and free schools.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff in each age group his Department employed at each *(a)* grade and *(b)* location in (i) 1980, (ii) 1983, (iii) 1987, (iv) 1992, (v) 1997, (vi) 2001 and (vii) each year since 2005. [17412]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was established on 12 May 2010. Information for predecessor Departments on how many staff were employed in the years stated broken down by grade and age, is available in the Civil Service Statistics published on the Cabinet Office's website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/stats-archive/archived-reports.aspx

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17212]

Tim Loughton: The Department engaged 10 interns over the last 12 months, supporting the Cabinet Office six week Summer Diversity Internship Programme.

All interns participating were London-based and received £350 a week as directed by the Cabinet Office.

Free School Meals

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in *(a)* Wallasey constituency, *(b)* the Wirral borough council area, *(c)* the North West and *(d)* England are in receipt of free school meals. [33871]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table set out as follows.

The answer includes full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged 5 to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state funded secondary[1, 2] and special schools[3]: School meal arrangements[4, 5] January 2010

	Maintained nursery and primary[1]			*State-funded secondary[2]*			*Special[3]*		
	Number on roll[4, 5]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*Number on roll[4, 5]*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4, 5]*	*Percentage known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
England	3,838,680	711,410	15.5	2,864,350	441,140	15.4	78,330	27,330	34.9
North West	540,660	115,850	21.4	395,590	72,780	18.4	11,200	4,550	40.6
Wirral	23,640	6,510	27.5	19,110	4,730	24.8	880	410	46.4
Wallasey	6,330	2,080	32.9	5,010	1,710	34.1	380	180	47.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.
[5] Includes pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 15 or under, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged between 5 and 15.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Source:

School Census

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on eligible families not taking up free school meals due to a perceived social stigma. [36007]

Mr Gibb: We receive occasional correspondence on stigma in relation to claiming free school meals. It is an issue that we take very seriously—there are clear financial and nutritional benefits for pupils from poorer families taking a free school lunch.

Cashless catering or 'swipe card' arrangements, integrated dining/queuing and pricing meals so that the cost of a meal is the same for those on free lunches as it is for others, are some of the helpful ways schools can minimise the easy identification and stigmatisation of pupils on free meals. Many schools have chosen to invest their targeted kitchen capital funding in cashless systems for this reason.

The Department has worked closely with other Government Departments to develop a Free School Meals Eligibility Checking System, known as "the ECS". The ECS enables local authorities to check data from the Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs in order to find out if a family qualifies for free school meals. It represents a significant achievement in reducing bureaucracy and cost for local authorities and encouraging more parents to sign up their children for a free school lunch.

Bullying or victimisation of pupils claiming free school meals is totally unacceptable. This is why we are now strengthening head teachers' authority to enforce discipline and ensure good behaviour both in and out of school.

Free School Meals: Sunderland

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many people received free school meals in Sunderland in the most recent year for which figures are available. [36409]

Mr Gibb: Information on free school meal eligibility is shown in the table.

The answer includes full time pupils aged 0 to 15 and part time pupils aged five to 15 known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals.

This information has been published in Tables 11a, b and c of the Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010 Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Maintained nursery, primary[1], state funded secondary[1,2] and special schools[3]: school meal arrangements[4,5]—January 2010

	Maintained nursery and primary[1]			*State-funded secondary [1,2]*			*Special[3]*		
	No. on roll[4,5]	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*No. on roll[4,5]*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*	*No. on roll[4,5]*	*No. of pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals[4,5]*	*% known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals*
Sunderland	19,822	4,852	24.5	16,478	3,234	19.6	444	170	38.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Includes sole and dual (main) registrations.

[5] Includes pupils who have full time attendance and are aged 0 to 15, or pupils who have part time attendance and are aged 5 to 15.

Source:
School Census

Free Schools

Dr Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of introducing the first free schools by September 2011. [35051]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* Free Schools will receive revenue funding at a rate that is equivalent to maintained schools and academies. Capital funding of up to £50 million has been set aside in 2010-11 to meet the needs of Free Schools. Beyond that, the provision for Free Schools forms part of the overall spending review settlement for schools.

Home Education

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of children who are home-schooled in Dartford constituency. [33280]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not collect information about the number of home-schooled children and has not made a recent estimate of the number of home-schooled children in Dartford constituency.

New Enterprise Allowance

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer from the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, of 10 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 8, on the enterprise allowance, if he will continue his Department's support for the Education Business Partnership Scheme in South Yorkshire. [35319]

Mr Gibb: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 20 January 2011, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, when he plans to conduct his separate internal review of personal, social, health and economic education; who he plans to consult during the review; if he will make it his policy to ensure *(a)* selection and *(b)* publication of comments submitted to him; and if he will make a statement. [36707]

Mr Gibb: Decisions relating to the process and time scale for the internal PSHE review have not yet been taken. The Department for Education is currently considering options and further information will be available in due course.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account his Department takes of appeals made direct to it by parents in respect of unauthorised absences of pupils from school. [33173]

Mr Gibb: The Department receives a number of complaints from parents on a variety of school attendance related matters. These are usually considered under section 496/7 of the Education Act 1996. The decision whether or not to authorise individual pupil absences rests with the person who has responsibility for the school register (normally the head teacher) and the governing body of the school which has overall responsibility for the register. Where a governing body has followed the relevant attendance regulations it is unlikely that there will be grounds for the Secretary of State to intervene.

The Secretary of State has power to intervene under section 496/7 of the Education Act 1996 if he considers that the governing body of a maintained school or a local authority has acted unreasonably in the exercise of their powers or duties (section 496) or that they have failed to carry out a duty (section 497). Every matter that is referred to the Secretary of State under section 496 /497 will be considered on the individual merits of the case.

Where attendance becomes problematic schools should address the matter informally with parents in the first instance. They may also want to back this up with voluntary parenting contracts that provide support to parents to enable them to manage their child's school attendance.

Where parents are unwilling or refuse to co-operate then decisions will have to be taken at a local level in relation to more rigorous sanctions—such as sanctions under the school attendance order framework, including school attendance orders, prosecutions, penalty notices, parenting orders. Ultimately these decisions are made by local authorities and by the courts. We do expect prosecutions to be used as a last resort where other strategies to address poor attendance have failed.

Local authorities receive information on pupil attendance from the schools in their area. They are under a duty to use the school attendance order statutory framework where they identify that a child may not be receiving suitable education because of a failure to attend school regularly, Parents can be prosecuted for failure to comply with a school attendance order. There is provision within the school attendance order framework for parents to complain to the Secretary of State if they feel that the local authority has acted unreasonably in continuing to enforce a school attendance order. The Secretary of State can in these circumstances make whatever direction he thinks fit. Again, each case would be considered on its merits.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent analysis has been undertaken of geographical variations in levels of unauthorised absences from *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [33176]

Mr Gibb: The most recent analysis on unauthorised absence has been published as part of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn Term 2009 and Spring Term 2010". This is available on our Research and Statistics Gateway website at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000962/index.shtml

This contains Government office region and local authority level analyses (in tables 6 and 7).

Data for the academic year 2008/09 is available in the SFR "Pupil Absence in Schools in England, Including Pupil Characteristics: 2008/09", which can be found at

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000918/index.shtml

This contains Government office region and local authority level analyses (in tables 7.1 and 7.2) as well as tables relating pupil absence to school location and pupil residence by local authority district (tables 8.1 to 8.8).

Additionally, we publish pupil residence absence data for various geographic area types on the Neighbourhood Statistics website at

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

These data are available for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Pupils: Coventry

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of students in Coventry who will qualify for the pupil premium; and how many students in Coventry have received education maintenance allowance payments in each of the last five years. [35238]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* The pupil premium for 2011-12 will be allocated to local authorities and schools with pupils that are known to be eligible for free school meals (FSM) as recorded on the January 2011 school census, PRU and AP census. Each pupil known to be eligible for free school meals will attract £430 of funding which will go to the school or academy via the local authority or Young People's Learning Agency if the pupil is in a mainstream setting or will be managed by the responsible local authority if the pupil is in a non-mainstream setting.

Local authorities will also attract the pupil premium for looked-after children which will be allocated to local authorities for pupils who at some point in the year to 31 March 2010 were looked after continuously for at least six months, and who were aged four to 15 on 31 August 2009 as recorded on the April 2010 local authority return. In 2011-12, each pupil will attract £430 of funding which will go to the responsible local authority who will pass it to maintained schools for pupils who have been in care for six months or more in the year to 31 March 2011.

The January 2010 school censuses allow an estimate of the number of pupils known to be eligible for FSM to be made. In Coventry in January 2010 there were 10,395 pupils known to be eligible, which would give rise to a pupil premium of £4,469,850. However, these are estimates only and are not necessarily indicative of how the pupil premium will be distributed. The number of eligible pupils in 2011 could be higher or lower.

The question of how many young people in Coventry received EMA is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Coventry South with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Pupil premium note:

The above estimates include FSM-eligible pupils, in reception to year 11, or the appropriate age-range if not following the national curriculum, as at the January 2010 school census, pupil referral unit census and the alternative provision census (i.e. those pupils funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant via local authorities but educated in non-maintained special schools, further education establishments, etc.) and those eligible for the looked-after child pupil premium. Pupil numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

Letter from Peter Lauener, dated 25 January 2011

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question PQ35238.

The Department of Education has responded to you regarding the first part of your question. I have been asked to provide a reply to the latter part of your question regarding how many students in Coventry have received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for Coventry is:

Academic year	*Take-up*
2006/07	3,778
2007/08	3,966
2008/09	3,995
2009/10	4,659
2010/11 as at 31 December 2010	4,378

Pupils: English Language

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils who enrolled in primary schools in Keighley constituency in each of the last five years did not speak English as a first language. [34143]

Mr Gibb: Information on first language is only collected for those pupils aged five and above. Pupils who are under five as at 31 August (at the start of the school year) are not required to provide such information.

The available information on the number of primary school pupils of compulsory school age and above (age as at 31 August) whose first language is known or believed to be other than English is shown in the following table.

Number of pupils of compulsory school age and above enrolled in primary schools[1] where first language is known or believed to be other than English[2], Keighley parliamentary constituency—January 2006 to 2010

	Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils[3]*
2006	1,555	23.4
2007	1,627	24.7
2008	1,717	26.4
2009	1,657	25.2
2010	1,888	28.7

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above (at 31 August prior to the year shown) were classified by first language. Excludes dual registrations.
[3] The number of pupils by their first language expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
Source:
School Census

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of primary schools had more than 50 per cent. of pupils with English as an additional language in each year since 1997. [34996]

Mr Gibb: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Number and percentage of primary schools[1] with more than 50% of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[2] January 1997 to 2010—England

	Number of primary schools[1]		
	With more than 50% of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[2]	*Total*	*Percentage*
1997[3]	685	18,392	3.7
1998	789	18,312	4.3
1999	762	18,234	4.2
2000	793	18,158	4.4
2001[4]	903	18,069	5.0
2002	935	17,985	5.2
2003	933	17,861	5.2
2004	976	17,762	5.5
2005	1,019	17,642	5.8
2006	1,069	17,504	6.1
2007	1,149	17,361	6.6
2008	1,216	17,205	7.1
2009	1,284	17,064	7.5
2010	1,328	16,971	7.8

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above, as at 31 August prior to each year shown, were classified by first language. Excludes dual registrations.
[3] Includes four schools where pupils below compulsory school age may have been included in the count of pupils whose first language was known or believed to be other than English.
[4] Includes 78 schools where pupils below compulsory school age may have been included in the count of pupils whose first language was known or believed to be other than English.
Source:
School Census

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils there were where English was an additional language in the last 12 months. [35021]

Mr Gibb: In January 2010 the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above (age as at 31 August) whose first language was known or believed to be other than English was 518,020 in local authority maintained primary schools and 378,220 in state-funded secondary schools.

This information can be found in table 5 in the Schools, Pupils and their Characteristics: January 2010 Statistical First Release at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000925/index.shtml

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the average funding per school pupil in *(a)* Cambridgeshire County Council area, *(b)* Surrey County Council area, *(c)* Peterborough City Council area, *(d)* Essex County Council area, *(e)* Buckinghamshire County Council area, *(f)* Bedfordshire County Council area, *(g)* Hertfordshire County Council area and *(h)* nationally in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [35029]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 20 January 2011]:* The available information for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is shown in the following table:

Budget spend per pupil for 2009-10 and 2010-11

	2009-10	*2010-11*
England	3,894.24	4,082.88
Bedford Borough	3,849.83	3,969.45
Buckinghamshire	3,709.38	3,932.04
Cambridgeshire	3,585.43	3,764.84
Essex	3,796.23	3,895.38
Hertfordshire	3,760.08	4,033.00
Peterborough	3,909.47	4,039.08
Surrey	3,828.82	3,977.21

On 13 December 2010, the Government announced the Dedicated Schools Grant settlement for each local authority and details of the pupil premium for 2011-12.

For 2011-12, we are protecting school funding in the system at flat cash per pupil, before adding the pupil premium. Flat cash per pupil means that as pupil numbers go up, the overall budget goes up in line.

Religious Education

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on the requirement for religious education to be a compulsory subject in all maintained schools. [33977]

Mr Gibb: Religious education holds a unique position as a statutory subject in the basic curriculum for all pupils in maintained schools in England. It is not a part of the National Curriculum, which means that there are no statutory national programmes of study, attainment targets or assessment arrangements. The nature of RE is such that local authorities and schools, who know their communities, are best positioned to design a syllabus which reflects local traditions and needs. The locally agreed syllabus, which is designed by Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education SACRE and adopted by the local authority, is statutory, and that means that local authorities must provide such a syllabus and that maintained schools must follow it. Schools with a religious character can either follow the locally agreed syllabus, or use a syllabus which has been agreed by their governing body. It is the responsibility of the head teacher, governors and local authorities (LAs) to make the necessary provisions for RE in all maintained schools.

We are firmly committed to maintaining the strong position of RE in the basic school curriculum and we do not intend to change the current statutory arrangements.

Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department's review of the national curriculum will include the status of religious education. [34862]

Mr Gibb: Religious education (RE) is a statutory part of the basic curriculum of maintained schools in England, but not a part of the national curriculum. There are a number of important components of a broad and balanced school curriculum for which, as is currently the case, it would be inappropriate to prescribe national programmes of study. RE falls into this category, and therefore, falls outside the scope of a review of the national curriculum.

The nature of RE is such that local authorities and schools, who know their communities, are best positioned to design a syllabus which reflects local traditions and needs. The locally agreed syllabus, which is designed by Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education and adopted by the local authority, is statutory, and that means that local authorities must provide such a syllabus and that maintained schools must follow it. The Government do not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis for RE.

Caroline Nokes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons he has excluded religious studies from the humanities list of the English Baccalaureate. [36031]

Mr Gibb: For the purposes of the 2010 performance tables the humanities element of the English Baccalaureate measure was either history or geography. We have not included religious education (RE) as fulfilling the humanity requirement of the English Baccalaureate because it is already a compulsory subject. One of the intentions of the English Baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history in addition to, rather than instead of, compulsory RE.

However we recognise, as many schools do, the benefits that religious education can bring to pupils. This is why the teaching of RE remains compulsory throughout a pupil's schooling. Success in all subjects studied at GCSE will also continue to be recognised by other performance table measures, as it has in the past. We are open to arguments about how we can further improve the measures in the performance tables and will review the precise definition of the English Baccalaureate for the 2011 tables.

School Meals

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made a cost-benefit assessment of the merits of extending the Dinner Money module to all primary schools using the SIMS register software. [34683]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not generally assess individual software applications such as SIMS in schools. It is for schools and local authorities to decide which products, including software of this type, best suit their needs. They are best placed to procure such products based on their particular circumstances.

However, we are always interested to hear about new developments in technology and to support value for money and good compatibility (interoperability) between operating systems such as SIMS and other systems.

Schools: Finance

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how funds for capital spending will be allocated equitably to *(a)* new academy schools and *(b)* maintained schools. [9097]

Mr Gibb: On 13 December 2010, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove) announced 2011-12 allocations of capital funding for local authorities and schools. This included that open academies will continue to be eligible for devolved formula capital funds on the same basis as maintained schools, and that there will be a centrally retained capital fund for academy maintenance needs. From 2012-13, allocations will be informed by the capital review which the Secretary of State announced on 5 July 2010, and which will be published in due course.

Teachers: Qualifications

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of trainee teachers retook the compulsory *(a)* numeracy and *(b)* literacy test (i) once, (ii) twice and (iii) three times or more in each of the last five years. [32203]

Mr Gibb: The available information is given in the following table and relates to the number of trainees who passed their skills tests after one, two or more than two attempts between 2004/05 and 2008/09.

Number and percentage of candidates taking tests by number of attempts years: 2004/05 to 2008/09. Coverage: England

	2004/05		*2005/06*		*2006/07*		*2007/08*		*2008/09*	
	No.	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Literacy test										
Total number of candidates taking test	34,400	—	34,700	—	35,280	—	33,990	—	33,520	—
Passed skills tests by number of attempts:										
1	26,930	78.3	27,440	79.1	28,940	82.0	27,320	80.4	26,810	80.0
2	4,410	12.8	4,200	12.1	3,710	10.5	3,760	11.1	3,890	11.6
3 or more	2,560	7.4	2,510	7.2	2,270	6.4	2,490	7.3	2,730	8.2
Total pass	33,900	98.6	34,150	98.4	34,930	99.0	33,570	98.8	33,440	99.8
Failed at least once and are yet to pass	490	1.4	550	1.6	360	1.0	420	1.2	80	0.2
Numeracy test										
Total number of candidates taking test	33,970	—	34,290	—	34,920	—	33,600	—	33,520	—
Passed skills tests by number of attempts:										
1	26,960	79.4	26,790	78.1	26,810	76.8	26,160	77.9	26,030	77.7
2	3.310	9.8	3,430	10.0	3,520	10.1	3,260	9.7	3,190	9.5
3 or more	2,970	8.7	3,160	9.2	3,840	11.0	3,480	10.4	3,530	10.5
Total pass	33,250	97.9	33,380	97.3	34,170	97.8	32,910	97.9	32,750	97.7
Failed at least once and are yet to pass	720	2.1	910	2.7	750	2.2	690	2.1	770	2.3

Note:
Numbers have been individually rounded to nearest 10 and may not sum.
Source:
TDA website

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 4 February 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Drugs: Industry

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings the Secretary of State has had with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry on the long-term future of the pharmaceutical industry in the UK in the last six months. [38421]

Mr Willetts: In July 2010, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, the right hon. Member for Twickenham (Vince Cable), the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr Prisk) and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, my noble Friend Baroness Wilcox, attended a UKTI Inward Investment conference which included a round-table meeting of life sciences companies:

3M;
Amgen;
Genzyme,
Johnson and Johnson;
Medtronic;
Pfizer;
Quintiles;
Sanofi-Aventis; and
Takeda.

GSK were represented on trade missions to Brazil and Russia led by the Secretary of State in September 2010 and November 2010 respectively. The Secretary of State is due to meet Eli Lilly next week. As the Minister responsible for life sciences within BIS, over the past six months, I have had regular contact with representatives of the pharmaceutical sector on a range issues including on the long term future for the sector and on related initiatives such as the Healthcare and Life Sciences Growth Review, as well as discussing issues with the recently appointed life sciences business adviser.

Specifically, I attended the Pharmaceutical Ministerial Industry Strategy Group (MISG) and the Ministerial Medical Technology Strategy Group (MMTSG) in November, and met representatives of the ABPI, BIA, ABHI and BIVDA in September. I have also had separate meetings with Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, GSK, 3M and BIA SME member companies.

I will also maintain regular contact with the life sciences industry through the Senior Industry Group, chaired by myself and Earl Howe.

Higher Education: Health Services

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with potential providers of private medical higher education services; and if he will make a statement. [38559]

Mr Willetts: Both the Secretary of State and other BIS Ministers have met a range of private higher education providers including some who deliver medical-related qualifications in other countries. Discussions have centred on how new providers who can offer excellent teaching and a high-quality experience for students can enter the higher education sector and not on the provision of specific courses, medical or otherwise.

Pfizer

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what meetings he has had with representatives of Pfizer *(a)* before and *(b)* after its decision to close its research and development site in Kent. [38427][1]

Mr Willetts: The Prime Minister met Jeff Kindler, CEO of Pfizer Inc, on 21 July and they spoke on the telephone in November 2010. I met Ian Read, Jeff Kindler's successor, on 24 January 2011 at 10 Downing Street and officials have since held several discussions with the senior management of Pfizer UK.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the South East of England Regional Development Agency was *(a)* consulted and *(b)* asked to provide its expertise by his Department prior to his decision to establish a taskforce on the closure of Pfizer's site in Kent; and whether the agency was asked to join the taskforce. [38428]

Mr Willetts: I have discussed the establishment of the taskforce with the chief executive of the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA).

SEEDA will be working with the chairman of the taskforce to ensure that everything is being done to mitigate the impact of Pfizer's decision on local jobs and the local communities.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the effects on the pharmaceutical industry in the UK of the decision by Pfizer to close its site in Kent [38429]

Mr Willetts: It is too early to be able to judge the full impact of the closure of the site on the pharmaceutical industry in the UK.

Pfizer's decision should be seen in the context of major restructuring in the pharmaceutical sector which is moving from large in-house R and D operations to smaller specialist R and D sites and greater collaboration with drug discovery and development companies and academic research units, and is not a reflection on the UK R and D environment. The UK retains world class activity including Pfizer's Regenerative Medicine Unit in Cambridge.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will meet representatives of the Royal Society of Chemistry to discuss the implications for scientific research of the decision by Pfizer to close its site in Kent. [38430]

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[1] *[Official Report, 28 March 2011, Vol. 526, c. 1-2MC.]*

Mr Willetts: I would be happy for the Royal Society of Chemistry to send me its view of the implications for scientific research of the decision by Pfizer to exit its site at Sandwich.

Andrew Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he was informed of the decision by Pfizer to close its site in Kent. [38431]

Mr Willetts: The company notified Ministers in confidence on 24 January of their plans to exit their facility at Sandwich.

Royal Mail: Privatisation

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has plans to require the traditional red post box and royal monogram to be preserved under his proposals for privatisation of the Royal Mail. [36518]

Mr Davey: The colour and design of post boxes are an operational matter for Royal Mail, and will remain so in the future. The company has stated publicly that it cherishes its distinctive and much loved red postboxes and that it is absolutely committed to ensuring that they remain a distinctive part of our communities.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of teaching staff in each university hold teaching or training qualifications, including PGCEs; and if he will make a statement. [38128]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* Information on staff in Higher Education Institutions is published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). HESA only hold information on the highest qualification held by staff, so it is not possible to identify all staff with teaching or training qualifications. Therefore, the information is not available in the form requested.

The Higher Education Academy (HE Academy) has developed the UK Professional Standards Framework (UK PSF) in collaboration with the higher education sector. The framework forms the basis of training for higher education teaching staff and it sets out nationally defined criteria for expertise in teaching and supporting learning in HE. The HE Academy accredits provision by HE Institutions of programmes aligned to the UK PSF. To date 367 programmes have been accredited across 133 UK higher education institutions.

This Government are committed to ensuring teaching excellence across the higher education sector. We are exploring with the sector ways in which excellent teaching can be promoted and incentivised, including through training. Plans for our wider programme of reform of higher education will be set out in the forthcoming White Paper.

CABINET OFFICE

Chequers: Operating Costs

Jon Trickett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the running costs of Chequers, including the cost of *(a)* staff, *(b)* utility charges, *(c)* council tax, *(d)* telephone costs, *(e)* cleaning, *(f)* insurance, *(g)* maintenance and *(h)* entertainment since the 2010 general election. [33787]

Mr Maude: The Cabinet Office does not hold an estimate on the running costs of Chequers overall.

Chequers is administered by independent trustees who receive an annual grant from the Cabinet Office towards its maintenance and to cover civilian staff employed at Chequers in accordance with the Acts.

The grant for the financial year 2010-11 was agreed under the previous Administration. Information will be included in the annual Cabinet Office report and accounts which will be published before summer recess.

Civil Servants: Location

Helen Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) whether he has had any discussions on moving civil service jobs from London to Warrington; and if he will make a statement; [37596]

(2) how many civil service jobs he plans to move out of London in the next five years; and what criteria he will apply to determine the new locations for such jobs. [37597]

Mr Maude *[holding answer 1 February 2011]:* As at end March 2010, 5,064 civil service posts had been relocated from London and the South East to the North West, of which 41 went to Warrington. There are currently no plans to relocate further posts, however relocation of Government staff outside of London and the South East continues to be considered amongst other options to deliver the savings set out at the spending review and increase the efficiency of the Government's estate.

It is the Government's property strategy to implement and manage a system of National Property Controls across the central civil and operational estate as well as setting up Property Vehicles (PVs) that will make savings through a more coordinated approach to property asset management of the central civil office estate. As a first step, the Government Property Unit will set up pilot PVs for the central London and Bristol office estate from 2011-12.

The current spending controls on government property will result in a reduction in both the cost and size of the estate. As at September 2010, the moratorium had resulted in estate cost reductions of over £18 million and is on track to deliver £49 million by the end of the financial year. As the estate reduces in size, retained buildings will be utilised more intensively wherever possible. This reduction of property in London and elsewhere could see posts being relocated to areas close to London, and where there is a strong business case, to other parts of the country.

Public Houses

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* public houses and *(b)* clubs closed in each of the last 10 years. [38495]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated February 2011:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) public houses and (b) clubs closed in each of the last 10 years. [38495]

Annual statistics on the number of enterprise deaths are available from 2002 onwards in the ONS release on Business Demography at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

The table below contains the latest statistics, which show the number of enterprise deaths in the UK for public houses/bars and licensed clubs.

Enterprise deaths in the UK 2002-09

	Public houses and bars	*Licensed clubs*
2002	7,810	475
2003	9,585	550
2004	10,080	580
2005	9,080	555
2006	7,915	500
2007	7,905	535
2008	7,325	505
2009	7,725	595

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) when he expects DAB digital radio services to be launched for *(a)* Wyvern FM, *(b)* Sunshine Radio, *(c)* Nation Radio, *(d)* Shuffle, *(e)* BBC Hereford and Worcester and *(f)* BBC Gloucestershire; [38567]

(2) what criteria the DAB digital radio broadcast licensee for Gloucestershire will use to determine which services to launch and when; [38568]

(3) what estimate he has made of the non-digital listening figures for *(a)* Wyvern FM, *(b)* Sunshine Radio, *(c)* Nation Radio, *(d)* Shuffle, *(e)* BBC Hereford and Worcester and *(f)* BBC Gloucestershire. [38569]

Mr Vaizey: Local multiplex licences for Gloucestershire and Hereford and Worcester have been licensed by Ofcom but are yet to be launched by the commercial operator. Last year Ofcom wrote to the operator asking them to submit their plans for the launch of these multiplexes and discussions are ongoing about a revised launch date, which we hope will be later this year.

When submitting an application for a multiplex licence the operator must include details of the services which will be carried, Ofcom consider whether the proposed services cater for the tastes and interest of the local people and broadens the range of services in that area. In addition, each multiplex licence includes a requirement to reserve capacity for the relevant BBC's local service.

The Government have made no assessment of the analogue listening figures of the specific services listed. However, we note that such data is collected and published quarterly by Radio Joint Audience Research (RAJAR).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are any *(a)* financial differences and *(b)* differences in law between the rights of (i) UK nationals and (ii) nationals of UK Overseas Territories serving the armed forces on operational duty in Afghanistan. [38381]

Mr Robathan: There are no financial or legal differences between the rights of UK nationals and the nationals of UK territories on operational duty in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Education

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had discussions with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Education and *(b)* Ministers in the Scottish Executive on the capacity of local primary and secondary schools to accommodate the children of service personnel posted to bases in (i) England and (ii) Scotland on return from Germany following the closure of RAF bases in that country. [38380]

Mr Robathan: A number of factors, including the capacity of schools to educate service children, will be considered and discussed before any final decision on where troops returning from Germany will be based in the UK.

My right hon. Friend, The Defence Secretary, met my right hon. Friend, First Minister for Scotland on 11 January to discuss a number of issues including future Defence basing. My hon. Friend, the Minister for the armed forces visited Moray on 27 January and met local representatives there.

In November last year I gave an undertaking to my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove), that Ministry of Defence (MOD) officials would keep Department for Education officials informed as plans develop to withdraw our armed forces from Germany by 2020.

The MOD officials engage with Department for Education and Ofsted officials on a regular basis about the education of service children, including those in Germany. They also routinely have discussions with colleagues from other Government Departments, including the three Territorial Offices, and the Scottish Executive, and will continue to do so as our plans mature.

Armed Forces: Location

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the experiences of other countries in relocating members of the armed forces and their families for the purposes of identifying best practice. [37533]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is always open to learning from other countries, but has not recently assessed the experiences of other countries in relocating members of the armed forces and their families. Such comparison would need to take into account that the terms and conditions of service for each country's armed forces personnel differ, as do the circumstances of their service.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the standard of service it provides to members of the armed forces in relocations from base to base. [37542]

Mr Robathan: Service personnel are provided with an opportunity to give feedback following their relocation. Additionally, the Ministry of Defence holds performance reviews with the contractor where points may be raised by the front line commands. The comments being fed back from the user community indicate that the standard of service delivered is good and the application process is easy to use and is not as labour intensive as it used to be.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the average cost of relocation of a member of *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy and their family in each of the last five years. [37552]

Mr Robathan: There are too many variables to this question for it to be answered meaningfully, such as where the service man or woman is relocating from and to and whether they are single or have a family to relocate with them.

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department conducts satisfaction surveys following the relocation of members of the armed forces from base to base. [37562]

Mr Robathan: An online post relocation feedback process is operated and the statistics are captured as part of a performance review with the contractor. Service personnel also have the option of writing to the contractor and/or the Ministry of Defence with their feedback of the service provided.

Separately, a selection of service personnel is approached to provide feedback using the annual Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey (AFCAS), including those who have recently moved location on posting. The annual AFCAS is published at the following link;

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/
armed_forces_continuous_attitude_survey_headline_results

A copy of the last AFCAS conducted in 2009 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr Jim Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with armed forces charities to discuss the indexation of pensions and benefits by the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index. [38130]

Mr Robathan: The subject of the indexation of pensions and benefits using the consumer prices index rather than the retail prices index has been raised in several meetings that I held late last year with armed forces charities. None of these meetings were convened solely to discuss this subject. The charities in question include the Royal British Legion, COBSEO and the War Widows Association. I have also held meetings with the Forces Pension Society to discuss this matter.

British Overseas Territories: Warships

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the duration was of each operational visit made by each Royal Navy vessel to each Overseas Territory in each year since 2000. [37509]

Mr Robathan: Details of each operational visit made by each Royal Navy vessel have been placed in the Library of the House. In addition to this, there are generally three vessels deployed to the Falkland Islands; an ice patrol vessel deployed to British Antarctic in the austral summer; and two patrol vessels deployed permanently to Gibraltar. The high volume of ship visits to Gibraltar means that full information for Gibraltar could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Procurement

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 221-2W, on defence: procurement, whether the project histories provided were *(a)* updated and *(b)* used as working documents throughout the life of each project. [38424]

Mr Robathan: Project History documents were written and updated as necessary during the life of the Nimrod MRA4, Future Integrated Soldier Technology, Queen Elizabeth Class carrier and Specialist Vehicles projects. They are used as reference documents by the respective teams as required. Comprehensive supporting documentation is held by the respective project teams.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37654]

Mr Robathan: Librarians are part of the broader banded grade structure in the Ministry of Defence (MOD) but are a recognised profession and where required are employed on the basis that they hold a qualification recognised by the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

Within MOD professionally qualified Librarians deploy their skills in the areas of website management and publishing, metadata and taxonomies, corporate memory, Freedom of Information, intelligence, and information assurance as well as in the traditional physical library setting.

Librarians are not required to be certified or chartered to work within MOD, although development schemes exist to support the achievement of these enhanced professional qualifications.

It is the responsibility of the individual to record their certified or chartered status within the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) used for personnel management in MOD. Therefore, figures provided reflect only those staff members who have chosen to record their qualification.

Data from FIRMS (which does not include staff from the non-departmental public bodies, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary or trading funds) is only available since 2004. Prior to this date records are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures from 1 April 2004 for the number of chartered librarians are:

Level of membership	*Chartered*
2004	22
2005	22
2006	24
2007	23
2008	24
2009	23
2010	24

Further to that, CILIP introduced its Certification scheme in 2005. There is one recorded certified librarian currently working in the Department.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which senior civil service staff have left his Department since May 2010; and what *(a)* contractual and *(b)* non-contractual payments were made in each case. [37020]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 1 February 2011]*: 12 members of the senior civil service have left the Ministry of Defence (MOD) since May 2010.

I am withholding details of compensation and pension payments made to individuals as this is personal data that cannot be released.

Contractual payments, in accordance with the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS) operating at the time, for individuals leaving under early release were made to two individuals. The total cost to the MOD amounted to £282,667. Under the terms of the CSCS, Departments are liable for the cost of early release pension payments from the point at which an individual departs until pension age. The total above is not therefore the amount paid to the two individuals, but the total cost to the Department. There have been no non-contractual payments made to individuals in the period in question.

Departmental Travel

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on travel by officials of his Department since May 2010. [36954]

Mr Robathan: We do not distinguish between service and civilian expenditure across all categories of travel and subsistence.

We do, however, hold information on rail and air tickets booked centrally for officials and on travel expenses reimbursed to them for accommodation, subsistence, taxi, bus and underground fares, parking charges, road tolls, most rail and air fares not booked centrally, use of their own vehicle for duty journeys and some car hire costs. Such expenditure totalled some £27 million over the period 1 May to 31 December 2010.

We have taken a number of measures to improve the value for money of travel by Ministry of Defence staff: we have removed all first-class air travel and, in all but exceptional circumstances, first-class rail and business-class air travel; senior officials have given up their allocated cars and share a smaller number of pooled cars instead; and we have asked all staff to avoid travel at all where the business need can be met in other ways, such as by e-mail and video or audio conferencing.

By whatever means staff travel, they must do so in a way that is the most economical in both money and official time.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make it his policy to release to *(a)* families and *(b)* legal representatives of deceased nuclear test veterans the report of the MR 185 post mortem examination carried out on each such deceased veteran; [37966]

(2) how many MR 185 post mortem examinations on nuclear test veterans have been carried out in each of the last 10 years. [37967]

Mr Robathan: MR185 is a reference number used by the national health service in relation to an epidemiological study which involved the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), now part of the Health Protection Agency (HPA). No post mortem examinations were commissioned for the purposes of the study.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what costs his Department incurred in monitoring the health of nuclear test veterans *(a)* in the UK and (b) overseas in each of the last three years; [36793]

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* commissioning studies into the cancer incidence and mortality rates of nuclear test veterans and *(b)* defending legal action taken by nuclear test veterans and their families in the Court of Appeal; [37501]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has previously spent over £1 million on statistical studies into cancer incidences and mortality rates among former personnel who attended the British nuclear tests. This includes the cost of the three National Radiation Protection Board studies which completed in 2003. For completeness we have also committed some £75,000 plus VAT towards a health needs analysis of former personnel who attended the nuclear tests.

The NHS has lead responsibility for ensuring the health care needs of ex-service personnel in the UK are met, including nuclear test veterans. Meeting the health care needs of UK nationals who reside overseas lies with the country in which they reside.

Where ex-service personnel are in receipt of a war pension, the MOD may meet the cost of treatment of accepted disablements, provided that the treatment is clinically necessary for a disablement due to service and is not available through the health system in the country of residence.

The MOD has estimated that the cost of defending the legal action brought by nuclear test veterans and their families in the Court of Appeal as some £450,000.

Military Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of flights of *(a)* military aircraft and *(b)* aircraft chartered by his Department to and from Afghanistan have been delayed by more than six hours in each month since December 2009. [35894]

Nick Harvey: Officials are collating the information requested. Once this work is complete I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Nick Harvey to Angus Robertson:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 25 January 2011 (Official Report, column 141W) about the number and proportion of flights to and from Afghanistan which have been delayed by more than six hours in each month since 2009.

The available information for delays to flights to and from Afghanistan is shown in the tables below. The information has been presented to show military and civilian charter flights and passenger or freight payloads and indicates, where appropriate, flights that operate via Middle East hubs. In all cases the data relates to delays to the original departure time. No statistics are recorded for civilian freight charter flights from Afghanistan to the UK. In the months not shown, there were no flights that were delayed more than six hours.

Flights to Afghanistan

Military passenger flights

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
February	22	1	4.54
March	23	3	13.04
April	21	1	4.76
May	20	1	5
October	24	2	8.33

Civilian charter passenger flights via the Middle East

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
March	12	1	8.33
May	9	1	11.11
December	11	4	36.36

Civilian charter freight flights

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
January	33	2	6.06
February	29	1	3.45
March	39	2	5.13
May	31	3	9.68
June	33	1	3.03
July	27	1	3.70
August	21	1	4.76
October	25	1	4
December	19	2	10.52

Military freight flights

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
January	24	1	4.16
March	26	2	7.69
April	22	5	22.72
May	23	5	21.73
July	27	1	3.70
August	26	6	23.08
October	27	3	11.11
November	26	4	15.38
December	23	1	4.35

Inward flights from Afghanistan to the UK

Military passenger flights

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
January	29	8	27.59
February	24	2	8.33
March	26	7	26.93
April	22	2	9.09
May	23	2	8.69
August	25	5	20
September	26	3	11.54
October	30	8	26.67
November	24	1	4.17
December	24	12	50

Military passenger flights via the Middle East

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
January	8	3	37.5
March	8	1	12.5
April	24	3	12.5
July	15	2	13.33
August	13	1	7.69
September	22	2	9.09
October	22	3	13.63
November	15	3	20
December	14	5	35.71

Military freight flights

2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
January	28	14	50
February	28	3	10.71
March	27	10	37.04
April	24	8	33.33
May	22	2	9.09
July	25	2	8
August	24	9	37.5
September	25	2	8
October	26	8	30.79

	Military freight flights		
2010	*Total flights*	*Delayed more than six hours*	*Proportion in percentage figures*
November	27	8	29.62
December	26	3	30.77

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans are in place for the eventuality that aircraft are unable to launch from *(a)* one of the or *(b)* both of the RAF bases responsible for the Quick Reaction Alert. [37528]

Mr Robathan: The operating status of our Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) bases at RAF Leuchars and RAF Coningsby is continually monitored. A range of contingency plans are in place to ensure aircraft can launch when required from one or both bases. Tertiary QRA facilities are also maintained at RAF Marham, Ministry of Defence Boscombe Down and RNAS Culdrose to give enhanced flexibility in the air defence arrangements.

Nuclear Weapons

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newport West of 12 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 503W, on nuclear weapons, what *(a)* findings, *(b)* safety improvement notices and *(c)* immediate safety requirements were issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator in the period 2005 to 2010. [35886]

Peter Luff: No immediate safety requirements were issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) during the period 2005 to 2010.

A total of four safety improvement notices have been issued during this period as follows:

	Subject
2005	Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) Submission.
2006	Air Transport Emergency Arrangements.
2010	Babcock Event No 19720: Failure to Reinstate Primary Safety Systems.
2010	Nuclear Propulsion Project Team, Organisation for Delivery of Nuclear Safety by the Approval Authority role.

In respect of the findings, I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to Caroline Lucas:

In my answer of 27 January 2011 to your Question about nuclear safety regulation (*Official Report*: Column 482W), I undertook to write to you regarding Findings issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR).

Firstly, it may be helpful if I provide some contextual information with regards to DNSR Findings. A Finding is imposed when an issue is considered to have an impact on safety or environmental protection, and for which a response is required within an agreed timescale. DNSR will determine the wording of the Finding, the proposed response and timescale after consultation with the authorisee, and evidence of a satisfactory conclusion may be sought in subsequent regulatory activities.

On average DNSR conducts around 100 inspections or exercise assessments each year, each of which may result in multiple Findings. Information is organised by authorisee (i.e. on a site-by-site basis) of which there are 10. Findings are recorded on databases but changes to IT systems mean that the only reliable way of collating this information will be to examine individual inspection / assessment reports. As a result, to respond to your question about the Findings issued by DNSR in the period 2005 to 2010, could only be done at disproportionate cost. If you were to refine your question to, for example a particular authorisee, such as HMNB Clyde or Devonport Dockyard, officials could extract and present this information up to the financial limit allowable for a Parliamentary Question, which is currently £800.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who will be responsible for *(a)* managing the project and *(b)* issuing contracts in respect of (i) construction of the Epure nuclear warhead testing facilities at Valduc in France and (*b*) the related Technology Development Centre at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston. [37494]

Peter Luff: The commercial strategy for the delivery of both the Epure and the Technology Development Centre facilities, including responsibilities for issuing contracts, is currently being developed jointly by France and the UK.

Oversight of the Teutates programme will be undertaken by a Joint Management Board with day to day project direction provided by a Joint Project Office. While these management arrangements are joint in nature the commitment of UK expenditure to the programme will still be subject to UK national approvals.

RAF Kinloss

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of US Navy and German Kriegsmarine ASW assets operating from RAF Kinloss was in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [38017]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* The only cost that can be directly attributed to the US Navy and German Kriegsmarine ASW assets is for fuel. Fuel is supplied to the US under a reciprocal agreement which provides for each nation's assets to be refuelled by the other. The cost of fuel provided for German assets is invoiced and recovered to the Ministry of Defence. The value of fuel provided to US and German assets from RAF Kinloss to date in 2010-11 was £301,000 and £10,000 respectively. No figures are currently available for 2011-12.

RAF Leuchars

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for the Armed Services of 25 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 270 on RAF Leuchars, whether the conclusions of the basing review of the defence estate will be announced before the 2011 election purdah period. [37530]

Mr Robathan: Although we are keen to announce results as soon as possible, it is highly unlikely that final decisions will be made and announced before the 2011 election purdah period begins on 22 March 2011. The Ministry of Defence's analysis of the estate and basing implications of the Strategic Defence and Security Review is a complex piece of work which, while progressing to schedule, is very unlikely to be complete before spring.

Tornado Aircraft

Mr Charles Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tornado strike aircraft will be retained following the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [38015]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 3 February 2011]:* The number of Tornado GR4 aircraft retained will be subject to the ongoing detailed implementation of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The draw-down plan for the Tornado GR4 fleet will ensure there is no effect on operations in Afghanistan and it is consistent with the transition to the future Typhoon and Joint Strike Fighter fast jet fleet.

TriStar Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much has been spent on upgrading the TriStar fleet's cockpits to date; [37640]

(2) what contractual costs are associated with cancelling the TriStar fleet cockpit upgrade; [37641]

(3) whether he plans to upgrade the TriStar fleet's cockpits. [37713]

Peter Luff: Discussions are ongoing between the Ministry of Defence and the contractor to determine the legal and commercial positions relating to the expiry of the TriStar cockpit upgrade contract known as the minimum military requirement contract. Until these discussions are finalised no indication can be given as to the contractual cost, if any, associated with not proceeding with the requirement. It is unlikely that the full minimum military requirement programme will be carried out before the TriStar fleet's out of service date of 2013. However, minor modifications to the avionics suite will be undertaken to comply with international air traffic management legislation.

As at 31 January 2011, the total expenditure on the minimum military requirement avionics upgrade programme for the TriStar fleet was approximately £12.5 million.

The TriStar fleet will continue to meet its operational requirement and deliver critical support to the armed forces in Afghanistan.

United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* female British troops and *(b)* British troops have been deployed as part of UN peacekeeping forces in each year since 2000. [37642]

Mr Robathan: The following table shows the number of British troops deployed as part of UN military missions[1] in each year since 2001. The number of troops deployed in 2000 is not available. The number given is the number deployed on 31 December of the given year.

The number of women deployed for all UN operations is not held. However we do hold data on Britain's largest peacekeeping contingent (currently 272 of 282) deployed in the UN Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP): the number of female British personnel deployed on UNFICYP is given for each year since 2007.

	Number of British troops deployed	*Number of female British troops deployed on UNFICYP*
2001	456	—
2002	468	—
2003	442	—
2004	440	—
2005	280	—
2006	289	—
2007	299	15
2008	295	34
2009	282	32
2010	282	29

USA: Military Bases

Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who owns the *(a)* buildings, *(b)* fixed assets, *(c)* site and *(d)* infrastructure at each US military base in the UK. [38006]

Nick Harvey: All sites comprising United States Visiting Forces bases in the UK are owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), although some small areas may be held on a leasehold basis. All buildings, fixed assets and infrastructure are owned by the MOD, with the exception of some utilities infrastructure, which are the property of the relevant utilities companies.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer questions 36375 and 36579, on defence procurement, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire on 24 January 2011. [38570]

Mr Robathan: At the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 15 December 2010, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) agreed to provide the Committee with a chronology of those who have fulfilled the role of Senior Responsible Owner for each of the 30 projects outlined in the Major Projects Report 2010. The MOD is currently in the process of collating these data and finalising its response to the Committee. We should therefore be in a position to answer both of these parliamentary questions next week.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Voting Rights: Prisoners

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what legal advice he has received on the application of his proposals for prisoner voting rights to elections to the Scottish Parliament. [38422]

Mr Harper: The Government have proposed that the right to vote will be restricted to UK Westminster parliamentary and European parliament elections only as that is the minimum currently required by law.

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[1] The majority of UK troops were deployed as part of the UN Force in Cyprus, but participated (among others) in missions in the Congo, Sudan, Georgia, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, and Kosovo.

The question of whether there is a requirement to enfranchise prisoners for elections to the devolved legislatures is currently before the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Toner *v.* United Kingdom Appl No. 8195/08. In its written observations on that case, the United Kingdom argued that elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly fell outside the scope of the right to free and fair elections in Article 1 of Protocol 3 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

EDUCATION

Academies: GCSE

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of year 11 academy school pupils were entered for *(a)* physics GCSE, *(b)* geography GCSE and *(c)* modern foreign language GCSE in the latest period for which figures are available. [35239]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 25 January 2011]:* In 2010, of the 31,735 pupils at the end of key stage 4 in academies:

3,138 (9.9%) entered a physics GCSE;

4,904 (15.5%) entered a geography GCSE; and

7,525 (23.7%) entered a modern foreign language GCSE.

Source:

The School Performance Tables data.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the outturn budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in Wales *(a)* was for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 and *(b)* will be for 2011-12. [33512]

Tim Loughton: This Department does not hold the information which has been requested; the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in Wales.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a list of the postholders in each local authority who are responsible for children and young people who go missing or run away from home or care. [38335]

Tim Loughton: This information is not collected centrally.

Classical Civilisation: GCSE

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons GCSE Classical Civilisation is not recognised as one of the humanities within the new English baccalaureate. [35573]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 24 January 2011]:* One of the intentions of the English baccalaureate is to encourage wider take up of geography and history. Classical civilisation was not included in the humanities element of the English baccalaureate for the 2010 performance tables because the historical element of the course was not sufficient. We will however be considering comments about the English baccalaureate measure and reviewing the precise definition of the English baccalaureate for the 2011 performance tables.

Curriculum

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations his Department has received from faith groups on the forthcoming national curriculum review. [35363]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 January 2011]:* We have received no formal representation from faith groups on the review of the National Curriculum, which was launched on 20 January 2011. Details about the review's scope and timetable were also published and we have invited all interested parties to respond to the call for evidence to help us shape the new National Curriculum.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the proportion of those in receipt of an education maintenance allowance who will be eligible for funding from the discretionary learners' fund. [32996]

Mr Gibb: We are working with schools, colleges and other stakeholders as we finalise the details of how the enhanced learners' fund will operate. That work will also be informed by the work of the Government's Advocate for Access to Education, the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes).

Evidence from the evaluation of the education maintenance allowance (EMA), together with research into barriers to learning commissioned by the previous Administration, shows that this group represents only around 10% of those currently in receipt of EMA may be prevented from participating in education or training without access to financial support receive appropriate help.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's equality impact assessment on replacing the education maintenance allowance. [32997]

Mr Gibb: A full equality impact assessment for the introduction of the discretionary learner support fund replacing the education maintenance allowance (EMA) will be published in due course, once final arrangements for the operation of the new fund have been developed. The Department for Education is undertaking that process in consultation with schools, colleges and other stakeholders, informed by the work that the right hon. Member for Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Simon Hughes) is doing in his capacity as the Government's Advocate for Access to Education. On publication a copy will be placed in the House Libraries.

Free School Meals

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will increase the age limit for eligibility for free school meals in line with the increase in the participation age. [35562]

Mr Gibb: Free school meals are currently available to pupils in a school Sixth Form, including those who are 19 or over, as long as they began their course of study before attaining the age of 18.

The Department has no current plans to extend free school meal eligibility to pupils studying in Further Education or Sixth Form Colleges.

Free School Meals: Armed Forces

Michael Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children whose parents served in the armed forces qualified for free school meals in each of the last six years. [36504]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 January 2011]:* From 6 April 2010, children whose parents receive the following have been entitled to receive free school meals:

income support

income-based jobseekers allowance

an income-related employment and support allowance

support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

child tax credit (provided they are not entitled to working tax credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)

the guarantee element of state pension credit

In addition, where a parent is entitled to working tax credit during the four week period immediately after their employment ceases, or after they start to work less than 16 hours per week, their children are entitled to free lunches.

Children who receive an eligible benefit in their own right are also eligible.

A small number of pupils were recorded as being eligible for and claiming free school meals and also as being service children on the School Census. However, service children are unlikely to meet the free school meal eligibility criteria and the small numbers recorded on the School Census may have been recorded in error.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 22 November 2010, on the comprehensive spending review and education maintenance allowance. [38573]

Tim Loughton: The Under-Secretary of State for Education, my noble Friend Lord Hill of Oareford, replied to my hon. Friend on 1 February.

Part-time Education

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress he has made in his discussions with Ofsted on future *(a)* registration and *(b)* inspection of part-time educational provision. [35725]

Tim Loughton: The Department has commissioned a report from Ofsted to look at the quality of private and voluntary sector run alternative provision, a fair proportion of which is part time provision and is therefore not required by law to register as an independent school at present.

Ofsted advise the study is going very well and they are due to report on their findings at Easter this year. As mentioned in the recent Schools White Paper—The Importance of Teaching, we will make a decision on whether part-time alternative provision should be registered as independent schools and therefore be subject to the appropriate inspection regime when we have considered Ofsted's report.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Andy Burnham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) by what mechanism his Department plans to gather evidence for its internal review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education; [36266]

(2) when he expects his Department's internal review of Personal, Social, Health and Economic education to be completed. [36267]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 26 January 2011]:* Decisions relating to the process and timescale for the internal PSHE review have not yet been taken. The Department for Education is currently considering options and further information will be available in due course.

Reading

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of book ownership on *(a)* propensity to read and *(b)* reading ability. [33170]

Mr Gibb: The Department has made no assessment of the potential effects of book ownership on propensity to read or reading ability to date.

Schools: Finance

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funds his Department has assigned to *(a)* the Specialist Schools and Academic Trust and *(b)* the National College for School Leadership in each of the last five years. [33728]

Tim Loughton: Based on figures obtained from the departments accounting system, the amounts assigned to the Specialist Schools and Academic Trust and the National College for School Leadership in the last five years are as follows:

Specialist schools and academic trust

	£
2006-07	21,546
2007-08	28,366
2008-09	18,438
2009-10	17,689
2010-11 (to date)	10,202

National college for school leadership

	£
2006-07	91,138
2007-08	113,221
2008-09	106,331
2009-10	121,112
2010-11 (to date)	70,900

Schools: Religious Practice

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will estimate the rate of adherence by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools to the requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship of a wholly or mainly Christian character. [33521]

Mr Gibb: All maintained schools must provide a daily act of collective worship for all registered pupils which reflects the traditions of this country which are, in the main, broadly Christian—although voluntary and foundation schools with a religious character can hold collective worship in accordance with the tenets of their faith.

Accountability for adherence to the law governing collective worship rests with the head teacher, the school governors and the local authority which are collectively responsible for providing a daily act of collective worship.

There is no national data available about schools' compliance with their obligations for providing a daily act of collective worship, and therefore we cannot estimate the number of maintained primary and secondary schools which adhere to the requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship of a wholly or mainly Christian character.

Sure Start Programme: Hammersmith and Fulham

Mr Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what communications his Department has had with Hammersmith and Fulham council on Sure Start programmes since the date of the announcement of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2011-12. [33739]

Sarah Teather: There is enough money in the recently announced Early Intervention Grant (EIG) to maintain the existing network of Sure Start Children's Centres, accessible to all but identifying and supporting families in greatest need.

I am not aware of any direct communication between my Department and Hammersmith and Fulham local authority on Sure Start since the announcement of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2011-12. Our agents, Together for Children (TFC), report they have had routine discussions about the way in which Hammersmith and Fulham deliver its children's centre programme.

Theology: GCE A-level

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many pupils were entered for an A-level examination in theology in each of the last five years. [33471]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 17 January 2011]:* The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Number of students entered for A-level Theology
2006	14,900
2007	15,593
2008	16,844
2009	17,504
2010	17,895

Source:
Performance tables

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Research

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the results of his Department's Energy Demand Research Project to be published. [38818]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem manage the Energy Demand Research Project on behalf of the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Ofgem expect to publish a final report on the project in spring 2011.

Fuel Poverty

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the number of households in fuel poverty in *(a)* the private rented sector, *(b)* local authority housing, *(c)* social housing and *(d)* owner-occupied housing in the last year for which figures are available. [38572]

Gregory Barker: The most recent year for which fuel poverty data are available is for 2008 and detailed statistics summarising the fuel poor in England are published at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=Statistics/fuelpoverty/611-fuel-poverty-2008-detailed-tables.pdf&filetype=4&minwidth=true

The following table shows the number of fuel poor households in England in 2008, split by the four main tenure types:

Tenure	*Number of fuel poor households (thousand)*
(a) Private rented	600
(b) Local authority	375
(c) RSL	253
(d) Owner occupied	2,107
Total	3,335

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the amount that will be raised from the Energy Company Obligation in the first year of its operation. [38574]

Charles Hendry: Subject to the passage of the Energy Bill, the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) will require energy companies to achieve a target level of activity over the programme period. This target will be defined in terms of the improvement in the energy and heating efficiency of the homes which are supported, and not in terms of specific amounts of expenditure which the companies must devote to it.

The size of the ECO target and also the detailed design of the programme, which will directly influence the cost to energy companies, will be consulted on later this year.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce his plans for the future of the renewable heat incentive; and if he will make a statement. [38483]

Gregory Barker: We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme shortly and to be open for business from 2011.

Warm Front Scheme

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department made of the likely effects on the level of fuel poverty of the reduction in funding for the Warm Front Scheme. [38576]

Gregory Barker: The Warm Front scheme is now expected to assist approximately 130,000 households in 2010-11. As announced in the spending review, DECC will fund a smaller, more targeted Warm Front scheme over the next two years and has estimated that the scheme will assist approximately 57,000 households in 2011-12 and 50,000 in 2012-13.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Forestry Commission: Land

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will consider the merits of including a covenant in all agreements of sale in respect of Forestry Commission land to require new owners to manage woodland sustainably; [38078]

(2) whether an access covenant will be part of the agreement of sale of any Forestry Commission land. [38079]

Mr Paice: The Government's policy is to protect the public benefits that are currently provided by the public forest estate, including sustainable forest management and public access. The consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate sets out and invites views on the proposals for protecting these benefits. The case for creating legal protection will be considered as part of the consultation. The protection of public benefits will be a key factor in the criteria governing sales that are completed before the consultation is concluded.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will list each parcel of land the Forestry Commission owns in South West Bedfordshire constituency; whether any of that land is planned to be sold; and what the status is of each such parcel of land. [38435]

Mr Paice: There is one wood managed by the Forestry Commission in the constituency of South West Bedfordshire. This is the 50 hectare Dedmansey wood, which has been classified as small commercial in the illustrative map which accompanies the current consultation on the future of the public forest estate in England.

The selection criteria for woodland in the next stage of Forestry Commission England's asset sales programme (2011-12) was published on 27 January and it expects to publish details of the sites it has selected for sale using these criteria by the end of February.

Forestry Commission: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Scottish Government on the effect on Forestry Commission staff based in Scotland who carry out UK-wide functions of her proposals for the forestry estate in England. [38342]

Mr Paice: Forestry Ministers in England, Wales and Scotland have discussed the UK Government's proposals to consult on the future of the public forest estate in England via correspondence. Officials will continue to hold discussions on matters relating to Forestry Commission GB.

Forests

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanism she plans to put in place to prevent the development of forests and woodland sold to private owners. [37983]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 4 February 2011]:* The Forestry Commissioners' powers to control tree felling as set out in the Forestry Act 1967 apply to all woodland in private ownership in England and the planning system prevents inappropriate and unrestricted development in all forests and woodland.

The current consultation on the future ownership and management of the public forest estate in England invites comments on what additional measures may need to be put in place in order to ensure the protection and enhancement of public benefits under any alternative ownership and management models.

Wood: Imports

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress she has made towards criminalising the *(a)* importation and *(b)* possession of illegally-logged timber. [38098]

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals to make the *(a)* import and *(b)* possession of illegally-sourced timber a criminal offence. [37944]

Mr Paice: We will put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation in the United Kingdom. The regulation prohibits the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market, which will restrict its purchase, possession and sale down the supply chain. In accordance with the provisions of the regulation, we will implement the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation by 3 March 2013. This underlines our commitment to eliminating illegal timber from the UK market.

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* proportion of imported timber which was illegally felled in the latest period for which figures are available. [38142]

Mr Paice: A study of the international illegal timber trade was carried out in 2010 by Chatham House, with funding from the Department for International Development. 'Illegal Logging and Related Trade: Indicators of the Global Response' (Lawson, S. and MacFaul, L, July 2010) estimated that imports of illegally sourced timber and timber products into the UK, in 2008, were 1.5 million cubic metres, Roundwood Equivalent: about 2.6% of total timber imports.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Asia Bibi

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response his Department received to its representations on the release of Asia Bibi, held in Pakistan on blasphemy charges. [37592]

Alistair Burt: The UK has engaged at a senior level with the Government of Pakistan on the case of Asia Bibi. I raised her case with the Pakistan Minister for Minorities in December 2010. The Ministry of Minorities has acknowledged our concerns about the case of Mrs Bibi, and our position with regards to the death penalty. The Ministry has also assured our high commission of the importance they attach to the welfare of Mrs Bibi. Officials at our high commission in Islamabad will continue to follow the case closely. I raised the issue of the blasphemy laws, and the importance of reform, with the Pakistan high commissioner on 31 January 2011.

BBC External Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on members of the armed forces serving abroad of proposed changes to funding for the BBC World Service. [37953]

Mr Jeremy Browne: BBC World Service programmes are made available to UK armed forces abroad through British Forces Broadcasting Service via satellite, with different regions taking different elements of the schedule. This is predominantly in English, with some elements of the Nepali Service for Ghurkhas. It is not anticipated that this provision will change.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the target of reducing central Government carbon emissions by 10 per cent. by June 2011. [36610]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has taken the following steps since May 2010 to reduce its carbon emissions to meet the Government's carbon emissions target:

Activated power saving settings on our operating system to put desktops into a very low energy mode when not in use.

Installed voltage regulation equipment in two sites, with plans to install in a third.

Converted Hanslope Park boilers to run off biodiesel.

Installed automatic energy meters.

Reduced office heating temperatures by two degrees to 19-20° C.

Decommissioned an energy inefficient pre-fabricated building.

Conducted energy audits of the UK estate and will implement the key recommendations.

Conducted a lighting survey and will install more energy efficient lighting.

Departmental Libraries

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* certified and *(b)* chartered librarians his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [37657]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently employs six chartered librarians and no certified librarians. The FCO does not maintain a central historic record of professional qualifications and it would incur disproportionate cost to establish such detail for each of the last 10 years from relevant staff file records.

Departmental Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed in his Department's security vetting services in *(a)* May 2010 and *(b)* December 2010; and where those staff were based. [35824]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs seven members of staff in London and Milton Keynes who manage FCO vetting in compliance with the Government's Security Policy Framework.

FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, conducts vetting on behalf of a number of organisations and Government Departments. In May 2010, they employed 78 staff and in December, 75 staff, providing vetting services to 59 customers across Government. Their staff are based in London and Milton Keynes.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on newspapers and magazines since May 2010. [34665]

Alistair Burt: Globally, from May to December 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has spent £168,600 on newspapers and magazines.

Embassies

Mr MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which embassies he plans to re-open. [35246]

Alistair Burt: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), is currently reviewing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) network. He will make an announcement about any changes to the FCO network when the review concludes.

Iran: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received about the dissemination of anti-Semitic material by Iran; what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take in the next six months at the United Nations on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [38036]

Alistair Burt: I remain deeply concerned at reports of ongoing anti-Semitic remarks in Iran, and attempts to cast doubt on the historical accuracy of the holocaust, including by senior members of the Government. We continue to take a strong stand against such remarks, including in international forums such as the UN. We will work closely with other countries to ensure that future meetings on racism at the UN address all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, and do not become platforms for the dissemination of deeply offensive anti-Semitic viewpoints. On Holocaust memorial day last week we underlined our commitment to ensuring that the horror of the holocaust is not forgotten and never repeated.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the Iranian nuclear programme since December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [38045]

Alistair Burt: We continue to be gravely concerned about the Iranian nuclear programme. The most recent International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General's report made clear that Iran had not suspended its enrichment related activities as required by six UN Security Council Resolutions. It also showed Iran had produced 3,183 kg of 3.5% low enriched uranium and 33 kg of 20% low enriched uranium, a significant step towards weapons grade enrichment, and was still failing to address the wide range of concerns over possible military dimensions of its programme.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in discussions between Iran and the P5+1 about Iran's nuclear programme since December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [R] [38046]

Alistair Burt: The latest round of talks between the P5+1 and Iran on Iran's nuclear programme took place on 21-22 January 2011 in Istanbul. The P5+1 put forward substantial ideas technical proposals for how Iran could begin to build confidence in its nuclear programme but Iran refused to discuss these ideas or engage further until the P5+1 agreed to certain pre-conditions. The P5+1 were united in their view that these pre-conditions were unacceptable and therefore no further talks have been scheduled. However, the P5+1 reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing a diplomatic solution and that the door to further dialogue remained open. It will now be essential to increase the pressure on Iran to convince it to negotiate seriously.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of Iranian involvement with *(a)* Islamist militants and *(b)* terrorist proxies since December 2010; and if he will make a statement. [38044]

Alistair Burt: We have longstanding and serious concerns about Iran's support to various militia and proxy groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas and militant groups in Afghanistan. Iran's support for these groups is a force for instability across the middle east and more widely.

The UN Panel set up to monitor implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1929 is investigating a shipment of arms recently intercepted in Nigeria which appears to be of Iranian origin. Although the final destination of the arms is as yet unclear, it is cause for serious concern.

We will continue to push for full implementation of relevant Security Council Resolutions and give our full support to efforts to pursue and investigate illegal shipments by Iran.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Simon Danczuk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his has had with his Israeli counterpart on the Knesset's approval of investigations into the funding of human and civil rights groups operating in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. [37189]

Alistair Burt: We are aware that some organisations may face probes into their funding following a Knesset decision to order the House Committee to examine setting up a parliamentary panel of inquiry. The House Committee will now decide whether to set up an investigation, and the Knesset will consider the issue again before any committee is set up.

Our ambassador in Tel Aviv discussed the issue with Israeli ambassador to the UK Ron Prosor shortly after the Knesset vote.

We attach importance to the values set out in Israel's Declaration of Independence and basic laws, including the need to respect civil liberties. We are concerned by anything that could detract from these and will be watching this debate carefully.

Palestinians: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has any plans to mark Palestinian Nakba day on 15 May 2011. [37108]

Alistair Burt: We do not have plans to mark Palestinian Nakba day. However we are concerned about the breakdown in negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and are working closely with the US and the EU to see a return to negotiations. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has made clear that the entire international community, including the US, should support 1967 borders as the basis for resumed negotiations.

Tunisia: British Nationals Abroad

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals in Tunisia on the latest date for which figures are available. [37327]

Alistair Burt: As of 31 January 2011, 194 British nationals were registered with our embassy in Tunis. We estimate around 50 to be independent travellers and the remainder residents of Tunisia. We expect the number of British nationals to increase as the expatriate community gradually returns.

Uganda: Foreign Relations

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with officials from the Government of Uganda since 11 May 2010. [38109]

Mr Bellingham: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I have had several discussions with senior members of the Ugandan Government since May 2010. I last met President Museveni and Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa during my visit to Uganda last July. In addition, the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Eddisbury (Mr O'Brien), met President Museveni in Uganda last May.

Uganda: Homosexuality

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of respect for the human rights of sexual minorities in Uganda. [38108]

Mr Bellingham: Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda and in general there is little social tolerance of sexual minorities. It is a commonly-held belief that homosexuality is in some way an un-African practice introduced into Uganda and promoted by European societies. A Private Member's Bill known as the Anti-Homosexuality Bill was tabled in Parliament in 2009. This would introduce new criminal sanctions for members of sexual minorities and those who promote their rights. The Government of Uganda have said that they will not allow the Bill to pass in its current form and it is not currently clear whether the Bill will make further progress.

We have made clear to the Government of Uganda the British Government's position on respect for the rights of sexual minorities on several occasions. Our high commission in Kampala also remains in close touch with, and has provided support for, Ugandan civil society groups campaigning for the rights of sexual minorities.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations has he received on the rights of sexual minorities in Uganda since 11 May 2010. [38110]

Mr Bellingham: I have discussed and corresponded with numerous Members and peers on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in Uganda. In addition, our high commission in Kampala remains in close touch with civil society groups that are campaigning for LGBT rights in Uganda, to whom they have offered their support.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ugandan Government on the death of David Kato. [38111]

Mr Bellingham: In my statement on the tragic murder of David Kato released last week, I urged the Ugandan authorities to investigate this crime thoroughly and bring the perpetrators to justice. Our high commission in Kampala has reinforced these points in discussion with the Ugandan authorities. I understand that the Ugandan police force has arrested two men in connection with Mr Kato's murder and is continuing its investigations.

United Nations

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much of the Government's assessed contribution to the UN regular budget was allocated to each agency, programme or body in each of the last four years. [37624]

Mr Bellingham: The UK contribution to the UN regular budget is assessed as an overall percentage of that budget. For 2010, 2011, and 2012 the UK contribution is 6.604%. For 2007, 2008 and 2009, the UK contribution was 6.642%. This percentage contribution is the same for all parts of the UN regular budget, and does not vary by agency, programme or body.

The UN budgeting process allocates funds from the regular budget to activities (for example, human rights, development, management services) rather than directly to individual UN bodies. The budget is decided on a two year cycle and is split into 37 sections, or fascicles. Allocations for 2006 and 2007, 2008 and 2009, and 2010 and 2011 are presented as follows.

				US Dollars
		2006-07	*2008-09*	*2010-11*
1	Overall policymaking	77,303,000	95,553,700	101,770,300
2	GA and Ecosoc affairs	581,705,000	662,261,100	672,835,300
3	Political affairs	709,126,000	962,582,700	1,313,276,700
4	Disarmament	19,854,100	22,459,700	22,134,800
5	PKOs	90,904,700	105,788,500	112,903,800
6	Outer space	6,391,600	7,642,300	8,023,000
7	ICJ	38,248,100	45,127,700	46,605,800
8	Legal affairs	42,817,000	47,708,200	45,396,500
9	Economic and social affairs	151,414,600	165,534,400	159,110,900
10	LDCs	4,734,000	5,862,900	7,406,100
11	NEPAD	8,640,000	12,208,100	12,641,000
12	Trade and development	112,726,400	133,094,600	136,629,800
13	International Trade centre	27,533,000	30,873,700	31,793,300
14	Environment	13,165,400	14,059,800	14,211,300
15	Human Settlements	19,564,900	20,801,600	20,564,700
16	Drugs, crime, terrorism	34,061,000	37,575,900	39,191,100
17	ECA	100,194,600	128,642,100	123,662,500
18	ESCAP	79,907,000	92,415,800	98,326,800
19	ECE	57,372,000	64,726,300	65,547,100
20	ECLAC	94,905,400	103,159,300	110,129,900
21	ESCWA	58,318,300	64,718,700	63,298,400
22	Technical cooperation	45,912,600	54,832,500	52,246,200
23	Human Rights	77,958,500	127,353,200	141,191,400
24	Refugees	68,501,600	80,005,500	83,717,500
25	Palestine refugees	38,772,600	45,070,100	43,712,400
26	Humanitarian assistance	26,677,600	29,861,800	29,399,900
27	Public information	171,325,600	189,374,600	184,996,600
28	Management and support services	530,374,300	492,429,300	509,206,300
29	Office of ICT	—	73,329,100	72,120,000
30	Internal Oversight	29,620,600	37,482,700	38,925,000
31	Jointly finance admin act.s	9,174,700	12,455,400	11,993,400
32	Special Expenses	93,650,800	100,372,700	114,134,100
33	Construction etc	98,122,900	62,199,400	60,326,800
34	Safety and Security	169,685,900	207,925,900	238,447,700
35	Development Account	21,511,900	18,651,300	23,651,300
36	Staff assessment	436,061,800	510,939,600	550,749,900
37	UN Women	—	—	6,957,100
38	Grand total	4,146,237,500	4,865,080,200	5,367,234,700

Notes:

1. Breakdown of the UN Regular Budget for the period 2006-2011.

2. For the period to 2009, the UK contributed 6.642% of these figures. From 2010 the UK rate has been 6.604%

HEALTH

Health Services: Standards

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the effectiveness in improving health outcomes of his policy on reforming health care commissioning. [37779]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' was published in July 2010 and set out our long-term vision for the national health service. Shortly after, we set out further details of our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner practices in 'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients', with the consultation on these proposals running from July to October.

In December, we published our response to the consultation in 'Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps' setting out our plans in further detail. This document set out a full analysis of the responses to the consultation and how our proposals were modified in light of the consultation.

On 19 January 2011 the Health and Social Care Bill was published. Alongside the Bill, we published an impact assessment that set out further detail on the evidence base for the policies.

All of these documents have already been placed in the Library.

Myasthenia Gravis: Medical Treatments

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* adequacy and *(b)* cost of provision of orphan treatments for myasthenia gravis on the NHS. [37755]

Paul Burstow: No drugs licensed for use in the treatment of myasthenia gravis are classified as orphan medicines by the European Medicines Agency.

Information on drugs included in section 10.2.1 of the British National Formulary (BNF), 'Drugs that enhance neuromuscular transmission', and dispensed in the community in England in 2009 (the most recent full year for which information is available) is given in the following table:

BNF chemical name[1,2]	*Prescription items (thousand)*[3]	*Net ingredient cost (NIC)(£000)*[4]
Distigmine bromide	3.2	143.2
Edrophonium chloride	0.0	0.1
Neostigmine bromide	2.0	131.0
Pyridostigmine bromide	48.3	2,721.8

[1] Neostigmine and edrophonium are also used for other purposes (neuromuscular blockade) and distigmine is primarily used for urinary retention.

[2] Immunosuppressant therapy is also used in the treatment of myasthenia gravis. Information on immunosuppressant drugs is not included as these are prescribed for a wide range of conditions.

[3] A figure of 0.0 indicates less than 50 prescription items.

[4] NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

Source:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

NHS: Finance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the efficiency of *(a)* public investment and *(b)* private borrowing in terms of the cost to the taxpayer of providing NHS services; and if he will make a statement. [38480]

Mr Simon Burns: Capital investment proposals in the national health service are considered on a case by case basis and assessed against key approval criteria set down by the Department and Treasury. Each proposal is subject to a value for money test which compares the risk adjusted, whole life costs and benefits of a public capital funded option (known as the Public Sector Comparator) with one provided under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). This involves a private sector consortium raising finance either through a loan from a bank or from the capital markets (bonds).

Under the PFI option project risks (costs overruns, design faults etc) are transferred from the public sector authority to the PFI consortium for which the public sector pays a premium in the form of the private sector's higher overall borrowing charges (they include a margin for project risk). So in general terms, if the cost of this premium is lower to the public sector than the quantified value of the risk retained under the Public Sector Comparator, this, combined with any efficiency gains achieved in the PFI option, will determine if the PFI proposal represents better value for money and can be approved to go ahead.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the difference in the cost of providing healthcare services by *(a)* a private sector acute healthcare provider and *(b)* an NHS acute healthcare provider; and if he will make a statement; [38481]

(2) with reference to clause 61 of the Health and Social Care Bill, what assessment he has made of the effects of corporation tax for *(a)* private health providers and *(b)* NHS providers on competition in the market; and whether he has assessed the effects that corporation tax may have on the prices charged by such providers. [38491]

Paul Burstow: The impact assessment for the Health and Social Care Bill (published on 19 January 2011) includes a partial assessment of factors affecting the costs incurred by national health service bodies and private providers, respectively, in delivering health services for NHS patients. The key conclusion is that some of these factors appear to increase costs for NHS bodies relative to private providers, whilst other factors appear to increase costs for private providers relative to NHS bodies. However, based on the information held centrally, it has not been possible to determine, on balance, whether NHS bodies or private providers of NHS services are systematically advantaged or disadvantaged relative to the other.

Additional data collection and analysis would be needed to quantify some of the key factors, for example, to reflect the fact that private providers tend to treat less complex cases. With regard to corporation tax, however, this would not affect the accounting cost of providing NHS services, because it is a tax on profit, and would not affect the prices paid for NHS services under the national tariff.

The impact assessment is published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_123582.pdf

Psychiatry

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatrists specialising in the treatment of children the NHS employed in each of the last 10 years. [38494]

Paul Burstow: The following table gives the number of psychiatrists specialising in the treatment of children in the years requested. This information has been provided by the NHS Information Centre and is taken from their annual NHS Workforce Census which is published in March each year.

Hospital and Community Health Services: medical staff specialising in child and adolescent psychiatry, England as at 30 September each year

	Number (headcount)	
	All staff	*Of which: Consultants*
2000	826	481
2001	823	486
2002	805	459
2003	860	505
2004	956	557
2005	1,039	604
2006	1,060	615
2007	1,084	627
2008	1,124	645
2009	1,098	658

Notes:

Data quality: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

HOME DEPARTMENT

Breathalysers: Roads

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on type approval for evidential roadside breath testing devices; and by what date she expects such devices to be in use by police forces. [37833]

James Brokenshire: Type approval depends on compliance of the approved device with a Home Office specification. Our technical advisers are currently finalising the specifications for both an evidential roadside breath test device for use in suspected drink driving cases and a roadside drug screening device. We expect work on both to be completed by the end of April 2011. Once a specification has been issued, future progress depends on manufacturers putting devices forward for approval and the performance of such devices in the necessary tests.

Purchase of devices once approved is a matter for individual chief officers of police.

Control Orders: Railways

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* entered and *(b)* departed from the UK at (i) Ebbsfleet station and (ii) Ashford International station in the latest year for which figures are available. [37741]

Damian Green: While the UK Border Agency holds information on passengers entering the UK at Ebbsfleet and Ashford International stations, these figures are supplied and owned by Eurostar. Information on passengers departing the UK from these stations is requested occasionally by UK Border Agency. All information supplied by Eurostar to the UK Border Agency is held commercial in confidence.

Crime: Warwickshire

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* vehicle crimes, *(b)* robberies, *(c)* violent crimes and *(d)* drug-related crimes were recorded in Warwickshire in each year since 2005. [38928]

James Brokenshire: The available information is given in the following table.

The term "violent crime" is no longer used in relation to the police recorded crime statistics and figures for offences of violence against the person have been provided.

Data collected centrally on recorded crime do not identify whether offences are drug related. The recorded crime statistics do include the number of specific drug offences recorded by the police and the available information is given in the table.

Selected offences recorded by the police in Warwickshire

Number of offences

	Vehicle crime[1]	*Robbery*	*Violence against the person*	*Drug offences*
2005-06	7,076	429	6,569	1,317
2006-07	7,649	488	7,386	1,593
2007-08	5,790	375	7,526	1,359
2008-09	5,769	334	5,957	1,314
2009-10	4,740	280	5,302	1,645

[1] Includes theft of and from a vehicle and interfering with a motor vehicle.

DNA: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons a DNA record may be deleted from the National DNA Database. [38478]

James Brokenshire: At present, the retention and destruction of police records, including DNA profiles held on the National DNA Database, is an operational issue for chief officers to consider. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has issued guidance to chief officers on the consideration of applications from individuals for the removal from police records of personal information, including DNA records.

The guidance, known as the Exceptional Case Procedure, is incorporated within the 'ACPO Retention Guidelines for Nominal Records on the Police National Computer' and has been published on the ACPO website at:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/PoliceCertificates/SubjectAccess/Retention%20of%20Records06.pdf

Theft: Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of dog theft have been recorded in each of the last five years. [38866]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available centrally. It is not possible to identify offences of dog thefts from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Theft: Oil

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many thefts of domestic oil were reported in each police authority area in each of the last five years. [38069]

James Brokenshire: The information requested is not available centrally. It is not possible to identify offences of theft of domestic oil from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials of his Department allocated to work on Afghanistan were based in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Kabul and *(c)* Helmand province in the latest period for which figures are available. [38562]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There are 216 Department for International Development (DFID) staff in Western Asia and Stabilisation Division. In the region of one third work solely on or in Afghanistan, alongside Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) colleagues, based in the UK, Kabul and Lashkar Gah. There are other DFID staff who cover Afghanistan as part of their wider responsibilities. We do not provide more detailed information for security and operational reasons.

JUSTICE

Chief Coroner

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legal advice he received before drafting legislation on the abolition of the post of Chief Coroner. [38295]

Mr Djanogly: The Public Bodies Bill is the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. The decision to include the office of Chief Coroner in the Bill for abolition was a policy decision, and was reached in the normal way with policy and legal advice from departmental officials.

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the post of Chief Coroner for each category of costs in the last year in which figures are available; [38489]

(2) if he will publish a timetable for the implementation of outstanding provisions of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. [38490]

Mr Djanogly: The office of Chief Coroner has not incurred any cost over the last year as the office has not been created. I made a statement to the House on 14

October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, outlining the Government's plans to abolish the office through the Public Bodies Bill and transfer certain functions to other appropriate bodies. Discussions with the senior judiciary about which functions most appropriately sit with the judiciary are ongoing and it would, therefore, be inappropriate to publish any form of timetable until those discussions are concluded. The Government are keen to progress as quickly as possible.

I am pleased, though, that we will shortly be consulting on a Charter which will set out the standards to be expected by all those who come into contact with the coroners system.

Community Orders

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of *(a)* threats and *(b)* violence against staff by offenders were recorded during unpaid work placements in 2009-10. [38080]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the number of threatening and violent incidents against probation staff recorded during unpaid work placements in 2009-10.

Category	*Number of incidents*
Threatened with an offensive weapon	5
Threat with intent to kill	5
Intimidation	106
Physically assaulted/violence	7
Verbally assaulted	239
Total	362

Exports: Afghanistan and Iraq

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of exporting ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices to Afghanistan since January 2010; [38347]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of exporting ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices to Iraq since January 2010. [38348]

Mr Blunt: As information collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not include the circumstances of offences other than those specified in a statute, it is not possible to identify specific offences relating to exporting ADE-651 bomb detectors and similar devices to Afghanistan or Iraq.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has banned the export of the ADE 651 and similar devices to those two countries under the Export Control Act 2002, with effect from 27 January 2010.

Firearms: Community Orders

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many instances of firearms being discharged when offenders were leaving unpaid work placements were recorded in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [38082]

Mr Blunt: Information is not collected from the Probation Trusts in sufficient detail to answer this question. However, data are available on the number of incidents related to both the discovery of firearms and threats with intent to kill (firearm related) that took place during unpaid work placements. Figures on these two categories are therefore provided in the following table for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Category	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Discovery of firearms	0	1
Threat with intent to kill—firearm related	0	1
Total	0	2

Offensive Weapons: Prosecutions and Convictions

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions there were for an offence of having an article with a blade or a point (i) in a public place and (ii) on school premises in each region in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10; [38010]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions were brought and *(b)* convictions there were for an offence of possession of an offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse (i) in a public place and (ii) on school premises in each region in (A) 2008-09 and (B) 2009-10. [38011]

Mr Blunt: The table shows the number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for selected knife offences and offensive weapons in all regions, England and Wales for 2008 to 2009 (latest available).

Data for 2010 are planned for publication in the spring of 2011.

Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for selected knife crime offences and offensive weapons[1], by region in England and Wales, 2008-09[2,3,4]

		Proceeded against		*Found guilty*	
Offence	*Region*	*2008[4]*	*2009*	*2008[4]*	*2009*
Having an article with a blade or point in a public space or on school premises	East Midlands	476	618	434	536
	Eastern	553	766	477	676
	London	2,276	2,151	1,754	1,648
	North East	459	618	399	526
	North West	886	1,324	813	1,099
	South East	797	1,035	648	844
	South West	475	655	413	556
	Wales	345	450	299	381
	West Midlands	685	831	594	710
	Yorkshire and Humberside	595	787	537	670
	England and Wales	7,547	9,235	6,368	7,646

Number of defendants proceeded against at the magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for selected knife crime offences and offensive weapons[1], by region in England and Wales, 2008-09[2,3,4]

		Proceeded against		Found guilty	
Offence	*Region*	*2008[4]*	*2009*	*2008[4]*	*2009*
Possession of an offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, in a public space or on school premises	East Midlands	474	460	361	315
	Eastern	570	632	403	386
	London	1,880	1,693	1,405	1,123
	North East	601	587	455	413
	North West	1,022	1,052	816	803
	South East	828	714	590	469
	South West	430	463	327	289
	Wales	390	395	289	274
	West Midlands	744	800	600	550
	Yorkshire and Humberside	718	695	533	506
	England and Wales	7,657	7,491	5,779	5,128

[1] Offences used:

Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3—Having an article with blade or point in public place

Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1) & (5)(a) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)—Having an article with blade or point on school premises

Criminal Justice Act 1968 S.139A (2) & (5)(b) added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)—Possession of offensive weapons on school premises without lawful authority or reasonable excuse

Prevention of Crime Act 1953 S.1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.2(1)—Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Note:

The figures presented here have been taken from the Ministry of Justices court proceedings database and are a record of the sentences passed in courts, they will differ from the figures presented in the figures published in the 'Knife Crime Sentencing—Quarterly brief' which are drawn from the Police National Computer.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Mental Health

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2011, *Official Report*, column 650W, on prisoners: mental health, what information his Department holds on re-offending rates for people with personality disorders, broken down by length of sentence served. [38152]

Mr Blunt: There is no centrally held list of offenders diagnosed with personality disorders which we can match with re-offending data. Therefore re-offending rates cannot be calculated for these offenders.

Further information on adult re-offending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

and

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/compendium-of-reoffending-statistics-and-analysis.pdf

Prisons: Public Expenditure

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of a place in a *(a)* high security, *(b)* Category B, *(c)* Category C and *(d)* open prison in 2009-10. [38081]

Mr Blunt: The 2009-10 overall average cost per place and per prisoner in the above mentioned category establishments is as follows:

		£
Category	*Overall average cost per place*	*Overall average cost per prisoner*
Category B	37,000	37,000
Category C	36,000	36,000
Dispersal (high security)	71,000	74,000
All open	32,000	33,000

Note:

Rounded to nearest £1,000

The costs represent the total cost per place/prisoner at each prison where the majority use at the end of each year was for the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. There is no adjustment for prisons holding prisoners of more than one category.

The overall cost for 2009-10 within each category comprises the direct expenditure on public and private prisons, increased by an apportionment of relevant costs borne centrally and in the Regions by National Offender Management Service (NOMS). This involves some estimation. The figures do not include the cost of prisoners held in police or court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. Health and Education). The prisoner escort service costs are included. Expenditure recharged to the Youth Justice Board in respect of young people is included.

Cost per prison place is expressed in terms of the baseline certified normal accommodation number of places.

Terrorism: Convictions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many persons convicted for offences relating to terrorism since 1 January 2001 have subsequently been released; [38121]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of persons convicted for offences relating to terrorism since 1 January 2001 who will be released by 31 March 2012. [38122]

Mr Blunt: Data relating to releases of offenders convicted of offences relating to terrorism before 2007-08 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

For the period 2007-08 - 2009-10, 52 offenders convicted of offences relating to terrorism since January 2001 have subsequently been released from prison. Of these, 36 are currently subject to licence conditions as part of statutory supervision by the probation service until the conclusion of their sentence. The remaining 16 have concluded their supervision and their sentence without any further offending.

This figure is a breakdown of data previously published in the Home Office's statistical bulletin on Terrorist Arrests and Outcomes. This bulletin may be found in the House of Commons Libraries and at the following web link:

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/terrorism.html

Between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2012, I estimate a further 31 prisoners convicted of offences relating to terrorism may be released. However, the actual number of prisoners released is dependent on any future appeals, parole hearings, deportation proceedings and new cases and sentences.

Theft: Oil

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of offences involving the theft of oil from domestic premises in each of the last five years. [38070]

Mr Blunt: As information collated centrally by the Ministry of Justice does not include the circumstances of offences other than those specified in a statute, it is not possible to identify from proceedings for theft offences those which were for the theft of oil from domestic premises.

SCOTLAND

Charities: Finance

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he has met representatives of charitable organisations in Scotland to discuss the effect of both the Comprehensive Spending Review and the rise in the level of value added tax on their *(a)* activities and *(b)* funding. [38343]

Michael Moore: I have been in contact with a number of charitable organisations in Scotland on a range of issues, including the comprehensive spending review and the rise in the level of value added tax.

Disability: Children

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will hold discussions with the Scottish Government on the conclusions and recommendations of the report, Setting the Scene for Scotland's Disabled Children. [37756]

David Mundell: I welcome this report, which I am sure will provide valuable background information for the future design and development of policies and services for disabled children in Scotland. I would be happy to discuss its conclusions and recommendations with the Scottish Government.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the conclusions and recommendations of the report, Setting the Scene for Scotland's Disabled Children. [37768]

David Mundell: I welcome this report, which I am sure will provide valuable background information for the future design and development of policies and services for disabled children in Scotland. I would be happy to discuss its conclusions and recommendations with the relevant minister from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Scottish Parliament: Elections

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland on the effect of holding an overnight count in respect of elections to the Scottish Parliament. [38341]

Michael Moore: The timing of the count for the Scottish Parliament elections is a matter for individual returning officers and they are confident that the overall result will be known on 6 May. The Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland (IEMB) published a statement on the timing of the count on 2 February and I will place a copy of this in the Library of the House.

In recent weeks, the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale (David Mundell), has discussed a range of matters related to the forthcoming Scottish Parliament elections with Mary Pitcaithly, the Convener of the IEMB and Regional Counting Officer for Scotland.

TRANSPORT

Electric Vehicles

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the likely *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* operational performance of public service all-electric vehicles in (i) 2013, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2017. [37595]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 1 February 2011]:* Under the £45 million Green Bus Fund the Department for Transport is supporting the purchase of around 500 new low carbon emission buses. Some of these buses will be all-electric buses. All buses supported by the Green Bus Fund have to be ordered by the end of March 2011 and must be in service by the end of March 2012.

Operators of buses part-funded by the Green Bus Fund are required to provide data to the Department on the performance of those buses in operation. These data will be collated into reports which the Department will publish.

High Speed 2: Staffordshire

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the High Speed 2 exceptional hardship scheme *(a)* for Staffordshire and *(b)* in total. [37561]

Mr Philip Hammond: The cost of the Exceptional Hardship Scheme is estimated at £50 million over the life of the scheme from launch on 20 August 2010 to its assumed end date around the end of 2011 or early 2012. As applications can come from anywhere along the line of route, this estimate has not been broken down by county.

Industrial Health and Safety

Alok Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress his Department has made on reviewing the health and safety regulations for which it is responsible since his appointment. [36977]

Norman Baker: A significant proportion of health and safety regulation within the transport sector has come about following incidents, accidents and the resulting investigations into causal factors. Department for Transport officials are working with colleagues in the Health and Safety Executive to review options for possible consolidation of existing regulation. We are keen to remove unnecessary and restrictive requirements, subject to safety not being compromised.

Salt

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many tonnes of salt comprise the strategic salt stockpile; at which locations the strategic salt stockpile is stored; and how many tonnes of salt are held at each such location; [32846]

(2) what arrangements are in place for the distribution of salt from the strategic salt stockpile to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other agencies; [32847]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of tonnes of salt supplies that were available at the end of *(a)* September 2010, *(b)* October 2010, *(c)* November 2010 and *(d)* the latest period for which figures are available; [32848]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the gritting of roads in Wales; and what recent assistance his Department has offered to local authorities in Wales on this matter; [32849]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* quantity of salt required in the first four months of 2011 and *(b)* cost to the public purse of procuring such quantities. [32850]

Norman Baker: As a result of the challenges faced during the 2009-10 winter season, particularly those related to salt supplies, an independent winter resilience review, led by David Quarmby CBE was carried out. Among the many review recommendations was one to establish a strategic stockpile of up to 250,000 tonnes, managed by the Highways Agency, to provide a strategic reserve of salt for England through the 2010-11 winter season.

The strategic salt is held at a number of ports across England including—Ellesmere Port, Birkenhead, Southampton, Strood, Immingham and Teesport. With salt currently both arriving and being distributed from the strategic stockpile the amounts held at each site vary.

As a result of the early onset and severity of the weather experienced already this winter season, the Secretary of State for Transport requested the Highways Agency to facilitate the import of a further volume of salt of up to 250,000 tonnes. Orders have been placed for this further amount which has started to arrive, with the majority expected between the end of January and mid-February. Storage locations are currently being arranged for the additional strategic salt.

In September 2010, the total volume of salt available across England, Scotland and Wales was estimated to be over 1,400,000 tonnes. No surveys were carried out in October or November 2010. For this winter season, the Department has introduced an electronic stock monitoring system to monitor salt stock holdings on a weekly basis. From the most recent audit undertaken on 17 January 2010, the total salt stock available in Great Britain is estimated to be over 912,000 tonnes (including the strategic stockpile in England) which compares to just over 243,600 tonnes at the same time last year.

Following each audit, a winter network group meeting is held at official level. The group brings together the Department for Transport (chair), the devolved Administrations (both Scotland and Wales), the Highways Agency, Transport for London, the Local Government Association (LGA), ADEPT (previously the County Surveyors Society), the Met Office, and the Cabinet Office.

The purpose of these meetings are to give advice, not direction, to salt suppliers based upon information provided by the Highways Agency and local highway authorities on salt stocks, estimates of future usage derived from Met Office weather forecasts, and an assessment of the available market supply. In addition to this the Group also considers whether any authorities require access to the strategic stock pile.

Officials from the Welsh Assembly Government are represented at the winter network group and issues of mutual interest regarding salt are discussed. In addition, the Secretary of State also discussed with the Deputy First Minister for Wales on 23 December 2010 the severe weather and salt stocks.

The quantity of salt required in the first four months of 2011 will depend on a number of factors including the weather. On this basis we have not estimated the cost to the public purse of processing such quantities.

TREASURY

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the additional costs to business resulting from the changes to the Carbon Reduction Commitment announced in the comprehensive spending review. [38476]

Gregory Barker: I have been asked to reply.

The Government decided not to proceed with the recycling of CRC revenues proposed by the previous Administration in order to support the public finances and contribute to the spending plans set out in the spending review. The decision has the additional benefit of creating a clearer price signal in the scheme which participants have asked for.

The clearer and stronger price signal provided by this change should reduce uncertainty and administrative costs while maintaining energy efficiency measures among participants and the commensurate savings in energy bills.

The cost impact will depend on the size and type of the participant organisation and how hard they drive energy efficiency within their organisation to reduce their energy bills but typically we expect this to be under 7% for CRC participants.

The impact on business of our initial changes to the CRC will depend on the extent to which participants reduce their energy consumption before they are required to purchase and surrender allowances in 2012. As previously announced it is our intention deliver further simplification of the CRC and detailed options are being discussed with CRC participants.

Insurance: Motor Vehicles

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what regulations govern the rights of those not at fault in road accidents to choose legal representation to pursue a compensation claim; and whether an insurer to one of the parties may impose a legal representative on any party to the claim; [38571]

(2) if he will consider the merits of introducing proposals to prohibit motor vehicle insurers from giving favourable *(a)* instruction and *(b)* payment to legal practitioners with whom they have a pre-existing commercial relationship; [38578]

(3) what regulations govern the free choice of legal representation by persons making claims under motor insurance policies or legal expenses cover policies. [38579]

Mr Hoban: A consumer's right to choose legal representation is set out in the Insurance Companies (Legal Expenses Insurance) Regulations 1990 ("the regulations"). The regulations apply to both specific policies for legal expenses cover and, for example, motor insurance policies that include legal expenses cover. In the absence of any legal expenses insurance policy, or where the consumer is not seeking to recover his legal costs from his insurer, there are no restrictions on a consumer choosing his own legal representative to pursue a claim. However, where a consumer has a legal expenses insurance policy to indemnify his legal costs, the insurer may require the use of one of its panel solicitors to pursue the consumer's claim for compensation.

The regulations are enforced by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), who are obliged to ensure that they are applied effectively and that customers are treated fairly. The FSA sets standards that financial services firms have to meet and takes action if they do not. To support this, there are specific rules for how insurance firms should treat their customers and these rules can be found in their Insurance Conduct of Business Sourcebook (ICOBS).

The FSA does not have any specific rules relating to insurers' use of legal practitioners with whom they have a pre-existing commercial relationship; however solicitors appointed by an insurer have a duty to their client (the policyholder). Solicitor panels, which are used by the industry, help keep legal costs down (e.g. through pre-agreed fee structures)—and this reduction in costs is fed through to premiums.

A policyholder who feels he has been treated unfairly by a firm, in this or any other respect, can initiate a formal complaints process by first contacting the firm and, if no satisfactory resolution is found, then referring his complaint to the independent Financial Ombudsman Service ("the FOS"). The FOS is an independent service for settling disputes between businesses providing financial services and their customers. The service is free of charge to consumers.

Members: Correspondence

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Financial Secretary to the Treasury expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne North of 10 December 2010, regarding the Lloyds Action Now campaign. [38564]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Catherine McKinnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne North of 10 December 2010, regarding food price speculation. [38565]

Mr Hoban: I wrote to all hon. Members on 1 December for use in responding to constituency correspondence on this issue. I am forwarding a copy of my letter.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Centenarian

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people currently aged *(a)* 56 and *(b)* 57 years old are expected to live to 100 years old. [38345]

Steve Webb: The 2008-based ONS cohort life expectancy projections suggest that approximately up to 91,000 people currently aged 56 and up to 89,000 people currently aged 57 are expected to live to 100 years old.

Life Expectancy: Females

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the life expectancy is of women currently aged *(a)* 55, *(b)* 56 and *(c)* 57 years old. [38344]

Steve Webb: The requested information is presented in the following table.

Cohort life expectancy—women

Age in 2011	*Years*
55	33.7
56	32.7
57	31.7

Pathways to Work

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of those who started on the Jobcentre Plus Pathways to Work programme in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 entered employment within (i) six months, (ii) 12 months, (iii) 18 months, (iv) two years and (v) three years. [36799]

Chris Grayling: Information on jobs achieved through Pathways to Work come from the Department's Pathways to Work database. Within this database, jobs are counted only where they start within 91 days of a customer's last contact with JCP. Jobs occurring after this period are not counted. This is in order to reasonably attribute the job to the activity which takes place through Pathways. The mandatory activity takes on average around nine months from Pathways start. This means that the majority of jobs recorded within this data are obtained within one year and therefore the average time it takes a Pathways customer to find work may appear lower than would otherwise be expected.

Jobs information is drawn from tax records from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. The data does not include people who are self-employed, and some people earning below the tax threshold. These figures are therefore likely to be an underestimate of the proportions finding work.

The table shows of the annual number of JCP Pathways starts between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2009, the proportion who find employment within (i) six months (ii) 12 months (iii) 18 months (iv) two years and (v) three years[1,2]:

[1] n/a—not available, job entry data not complete. Job entry data are only available up to 31 July 2010. Therefore for those who start JCP Pathways in the 2008-09 financial year, there is insufficient data to obtain the proportions who find employment after 12 months. This also applies to those who start JCP Pathways in the 2007-08 financial year, for the proportion who find employment within three years.

[2] *Source:'*

DWP JCP Pathways to Work database. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

Percentage

	Financial year of JCP Pathways start			
Proportion who find employment within:	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Six months	11.2	13.4	14.8	10.2
12 months	14.7	16.4	18.0	13.4
18 months	16.1	17.6	19.1	n/a
Two years	17.1	18.3	19.8	n/a
Three years	18.0	19.0	n/a	n/a

Figures on the number of annual JCP Pathways starts between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2009, and of those the number and proportion who find employment within one year are published at:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/adhoc_analysis/2011/jcp_pathways_average_time_to_employment_condition.pdf

Official statistics are routinely published for employment programmes such as Pathways to Work. Official statistics on Pathways to Work starts and job entries are available up to July 2010, and are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=ib_ref_p2w

Pensions: Personal Savings

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* pensions savings and *(b)* other savings for 56 year old (i) men and (ii) women. [38425]

Steve Webb: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Estimates of pension wealth held by individuals in private pensions aged 56 in 2006-08, by gender are shown in the table:

£

	Median[1]	*Mean*[1]
Men	52,800	195,800
Women	9,100	94,500
For all aged 56	24,500	143,700

[1] Includes those with zero pension wealth

Source:

Wealth and Assets Survey 2006-08

(b) The Wealth and Assets Survey is our main source of data for estimates on financial wealth. However, unlike pension wealth, the estimates for financial wealth are provided at household level and are not available by age and gender at the individual level.

Extensive analysis of financial wealth at household level using the Wealth and Assets data is available in 'Wealth in Great Britain 2006/08' at the following web link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/wealth-assets-2006-2008/Wealth_in_GB_2006_2008.pdf

Notes:

1. We interpreted the question's mention of pensions savings to mean wealth held in private pensions and therefore provided figures in that context. Private pensions are all pensions that are not state basic retirement or state earnings related. There are nine categories included in the estimates of private pension wealth: defined benefit (DB) pensions, defined contribution (DC) pensions and personal pensions to which the individual was contributing at the time of survey, additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) made to current pensions, retained rights in DB and DC schemes, pension funds from which the individual was drawing an income through income drawdown, pensions in payment and pensions expected in the future based on the contributions of a former spouse. The estimates quoted include those individuals with zero pension wealth. The private pension wealth figures provided here were not immediately available from the Wealth and Assets Survey report, and were obtained by carrying out in house analysis of the data.

2. We provide figures for both mean and median private pension wealth. The median may provide a better measure compared to the mean since the distribution of private pension wealth can be skewed by a small number of very large amounts of wealth at the top of the distribution.

3. We interpreted the question's mention of other savings to mean wealth held in financial assets. A general complexity with measuring individual level financial wealth in surveys is that many assets are held jointly by more than one person, particularly within couples. It is for this reason that the 'Wealth in Great Britain 2006/08'

report based on the data collected by the Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) presents financial assets held by households collectively rather than by each individual.

4. The Wealth and Assets Survey (WAS) is a large scale nationally representative longitudinal survey of over 30,000 private households in Great Britain that provides comprehensive information on people's assets and net wealth. The first wave was conducted from July 2006 to June 2008. It collected detailed information on financial and non-financial assets, and wealth components such as savings, pensions, property, mortgages and debt as well as people's attitudes and savings behaviour over time.

Unemployment

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* young people in each constituency have been unemployed for over 12 months. [22386]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) adults and (b) young people in each constituency have been unemployed for over 12 months. (22386)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates of the number of people unemployed by parliamentary constituency and age band are not available due to small sample sizes.

As an alternative, in Table 1, which will be placed in the Library, we have provided the number of people aged 16 to 24 and people aged 25 and over, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for over 12 months in each UK parliamentary constituency in October 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 26 January 2011

JUSTICE

Criminal Proceedings (Information Rights)

The following is an extract from a speech in debate in the European Committee B debate on the EU Directive on the Right to Information in Criminal Proceedings by the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the right hon. and learned Member for Rushcliffe (Mr Clarke) on 2 December 2010.

Mr Clarke: On Scotland, it costs the Scots about £500,000. They do not have a letter of rights at the moment—they will devise their own. It will be in accordance with Scottish law, not English and Welsh law, but they are happy to comply, because their standards are the same as ours. They will wish to give the same justice to people who appear in Scottish courts.

[Official Report, 2 December 2010, European Committee B, c. 13.]

Letter of correction from Mr Kenneth Clarke:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Bishop Auckland (Helen Goodman) about the costs of implementing the directive in Scotland.

The figure given should have been approximately £50,000—which includes written translation of a new letter of rights but does not include associated costs for training and putting in place the necessary legislation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Julian Sturdy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of the reduction of the empty property rates threshold on the business sector. [33609]

[Official Report, 17 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 503W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Robert Neill:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for York Outer (Julian Sturdy) on 17 January.

The notice of question received by my Department referred to "business centre sector" but this was later changed by the Table Office to "business sector". Due to an administrative error, the notification of change to the text of the question was not correctly dealt with resulting in an answer being given on the basis of the original text i.e. "business centre sector".

The full answer given was as follows:

Robert Neill: This Government recognises the problems caused by the previous Government's reforms of empty property rates.

Our ability to take action on this needs to be balanced against the costs involved, the targeted support that we have already provided on business rates and the overriding need to reduce public expenditure and support the economy generally by reducing the deficit.

We therefore have no immediate plans to reverse the reforms, and taking the above matters into consideration, the empty property rate threshold will revert to £2,600 from 1 April 2011. We will, however, certainly keep this matter under review.

No assessment has been made of the effect of the reduction of the empty property rates threshold on the business centre sector.

As I outlined in my written statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report,* columns 61-62WS, it would cost £400 million to continue with the temporary empty rates measure, which unfortunately is not fiscally sustainable given the public finances that the new Government have inherited from the last administration.

The correct answer should have been:

Robert Neill: This Government recognises the problems caused by the previous Government's reforms of empty property rates.

Our ability to take action on this needs to be balanced against the costs involved, the targeted support that we have already provided on business rates and the overriding need to reduce public expenditure and support the economy generally by reducing the deficit.

We therefore have no immediate plans to reverse the reforms, and taking the above matters into consideration, the empty property rate threshold will revert to £2,600 from 1 April 2011. We will, however, certainly keep this matter under review.

As I outlined in my written statement of 13 December 2010, *Official Report*, columns 61-62WS, it would cost £400 million to continue with the temporary empty rates measure, which unfortunately is not fiscally sustainable given the public finances that the new Government has inherited from the last administration.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 27 January 2011

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

News International

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 367W, on News International, whether *(a)* he and *(b)* the Minister for Culture, Communications and Creative Industries discussed with (i) James Murdoch and (ii) Rebekah Brooks (A) the Metropolitan Police's investigation on telephone hacking and blagging and (B) News Corporation's bid for BSkyB; and if he will make a statement. [21844]

[Official Report, 16 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 747W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Edward Vaizey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for West Bromwich East (Mr Watson) on 16 November 2010. The short introductory telephone conversation with Mr James Murdoch took place on 15 June, not 15 July as stated in the reply.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills had a short introductory telephone conversation with James Murdoch on 15 July during which the News Corporation bid for BSkyB was raised. They did not discuss the Metropolitan police's investigation on telephone hacking.

In my role as a joint BIS/DCMS Minister, I met Rebekah Brooks on 12 July. During this meeting neither News Corporation's bid for BSkyB, nor the Metropolitan police's investigation on telephone hacking were discussed.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 4 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills had a short introductory telephone conversation with James Murdoch on 15 June during which the News Corporation bid for BSkyB was raised. They did not discuss the Metropolitan police's investigation on telephone hacking.

In my role as a joint BIS/DCMS Minister, I met Rebekah Brooks on 12 July. During this meeting neither News Corporation's bid for BSkyB, nor the Metropolitan police's investigation on telephone hacking were discussed.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

The following is an extract of the exchange between the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) and the hon. Member for Bolsover (Mr Skinner) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 17 January 2011.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) (Lab): Since Bolsover district council has managed to hold its council tax steady for a few years, and since none of its executives get the kind of sums that have been referred to, will the Minister repay the compliment by allowing it to deal with the 108 prefabricated buildings that have been there since the end of the second world war? The council needs to replace them and pensioners need new accommodation, so will he get the show on the road?

[Official Report, 17 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 531.]

Letter of correction from Mr Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in the oral response given to the hon. Member for Bolsover (Mr Skinner) on 17 January 2011. The answer referred to an incorrect funding programme.

The full answer given was as follows:

Grant Shapps: The hon. Gentleman knows, because he has raised this issue with me before in the House, that the decent homes programme continues, and last week's settlement, on top of the spending review, makes it very clear that £2.2 billion is available for decent homes—which, I understand, subsequent to our previous exchange in the House, his council is in line for.

The correct answer should have been:

Grant Shapps: The hon. Gentleman knows, because he has raised this issue with me before in the House, that the affordable housing programme continues, and that £4.5 billion is available for new affordable housing provision—from which, I understand, subsequent to our previous exchange in the House, his council is in line for funding.

Anti-Semitism

The following is an extract from the closing speech by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell), in the Adjournment Debate on Anti-Semitism secured by the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 20 January 2011.

Andrew Stunell: …I know from my previous visits to the area that the security required there is a shock to all non-Jewish visitors, who expect a primary school to be a primary school, perhaps not with open access, but certainly with friendly, welcoming access rather than high fences and armed guards.

[Official Report, 20 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 365WH.]

Letter of correction from Mr Andrew Stunell:

An error has been identified in my closing speech in the Adjournment Debate on Anti-Semitism on 20 January 2011. The revision is required to avoid the impression that there are armed guards at Jewish Faith Schools.

The correct answer should have been:

Andrew Stunell: …I know from my previous visits to the area that the security required there is a shock to all non-Jewish visitors, who expect a primary school to be a primary school, perhaps not with open access, but certainly with friendly, welcoming access rather than high fences and armed by guards.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 31 January 2011

EDUCATION

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will put in place mechanisms for public scrutiny of the financial backing of individuals and organisations who are involved in setting up free schools. [24812]

[Official Report, 13 December 2010, Vol. 520, c. 567W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Nick Gibb:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy) on 13 December 2010.

Unfortunately, we incorrectly believed that Academy Trust annual accounts were published on the Charity Commission's website, when in fact they are published on the Trust's website and the Companies House website.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Gibb: Once a Free School proposal is approved to progress to business case and plan stage, the main elements of the proposal forms will be put on the Department's website. We will redact personal information to comply with obligations under the Data Protection Act, and other information where we have judged that commercial interests would be prejudiced should we publish the proposal in full.

The Department will conduct due diligence checks, including financial checks, on companies and individuals associated with a proposed Free School. The vast majority of proposers to date are not associated with or supported by third party organisations.

Once a Free School is established, the Academy Trust will be required to publish annual accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. These accounts will be available on the Charity Commission website.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Gibb: Once a Free School proposal is approved to progress to business case and plan stage, the main elements of the proposal forms will be put on the Department's website. We will redact personal information to comply with obligations under the Data Protection Act, and other information where we have judged that commercial interests would be prejudiced should we publish the proposal in full.

The Department will conduct due diligence checks, including financial checks, on companies and individuals associated with a proposed Free School. The vast majority of proposers to date are not associated with or supported by third party organisations.

Once a Free School is established, the Academy Trust will be required to file their annual accounts with the registrar at Companies House (under sections 441-447 of the Companies Act 2006) and to publish them on the Academy Trust's website.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 1 February 2011

HEALTH

NHS: Negligence

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has paid to patients in ex-gratia payments to avoid ligation proceedings in each of the last three years. [33657]

[Official Report, 18 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 732-33W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Simon Burns:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Isle of Wight (Mr Turner) on 18 January 2011. Unfortunately two of the figures in the table were incorrect.

The answer given was as follows:

Mr Simon Burns: HM Treasury consider ex-gratia payments to be a form of special payment. HM Treasury's definition includes personal injury claims that are settled out of court. Information about local ex-gratia payments made by the national health service to patients to avoid litigation is not held centrally. Local NHS bodies record 'losses and special payments' in their consolidated accounts and these will include all ex-gratia payments, not just those paid to patients or to avoid litigation.

The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) records data held centrally specifically on ex-gratia payments made for clinical, employer and public liability claims settled out of court. As the NHSLA settles the vast majority of its claims this way, they fall under HM Treasury's definition of ex-gratia. Data provided by the NHSLA will cover payments to patients, although some will be made to families/dependants, employees and visitors.

Data on actual payments made each year can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The NHSLA has therefore supplied data in the following table which shows the total amount of damages paid on claims settled out of court where the claim was closed between 2007-10. It should be noted that some actual payments for these claims may have been made in earlier years to when the claim was closed.

£

	Clinical liability	*Employer and public liability*	*Total amount paid*
2007-08	225,023,267	22,257,496	247,280,762
2008-09	196,195,332	23,323,690	219,519,022
2009-10	230,996,377	20,312,554	466,799,784

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Simon Burns: HM Treasury consider ex-gratia payments to be a form of special payment. HM Treasury's definition includes personal injury claims that are settled out of court. Information about local ex-gratia payments made by the national health service to patients to avoid litigation is not held centrally. Local NHS bodies record 'losses and special payments' in their consolidated accounts and these will include all ex-gratia payments, not just those paid to patients or to avoid litigation.

The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) records data held centrally specifically on ex-gratia payments made for clinical, employer and public liability claims settled out of court. As the NHSLA settles the vast majority of its claims this way, they fall under HM Treasury's definition of ex-gratia. Data provided by the NHSLA will cover payments to patients, although some will be made to families/dependants, employees and visitors.

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£

	Clinical liability	*Employer and public liability*	*Total amount paid*
2007-08	225,023,267	22,257,496	247,280,763
2008-09	196,195,332	23,323,690	219,519,022
2009-10	230,996,377	20,312,554	251,308,931

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 2 February 2011

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies

The following is the answer given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Maude) relating to a question from the right hon. Member for Exeter (Mr Bradshaw) during Cabinet Office Question Time on 19 January 2011.

Mr Bradshaw: While "The King's Speech" is rightly being feted all around the world, the right hon. Gentleman's Government are abolishing the organisations here in Britain that helped to make that film happen, as part of what even the Conservative-dominated Public Administration Committee has described as a "botched" bonfire of the quangos. Given that he cannot even say how much, if anything, this is going to cost, is it not typical of what the Government are doing in so many areas—ill considered, ill thought through, rushed and damaging?

Mr Maude: Just to be clear, the purpose of these reforms is to increase accountability. The Government will not simply create incontinently new independent bodies in order to avoid Ministers having to make and defend uncomfortable decisions. Ministers should be prepared to make those decisions and defend them themselves—that is what democratic accountability is about, and that is the primary aim. However, we will save money. The changes to the public body landscape planned and announced by the previous Government, of whom the right hon. Gentleman was such a distinguished ornament, were much more minor than the changes that we are undertaking. That Government claimed that those changes would save £500 million a year; our changes are much more radical and will save a great deal more.

[Official Report, 19 January 2011, Vol. 521, c. 827.]

Letter of correction from Mr Maude:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 19 January 2011.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Maude: Just to be clear, the purpose of these reforms is to increase accountability. The Government will not simply create incontinently new independent bodies in order to avoid Ministers having to make and defend uncomfortable decisions. Ministers should be prepared to make those decisions and defend them themselves—that is what democratic accountability is about, and that is the primary aim. However, we will save money. The changes to the public body landscape planned and announced by the previous Government, of whom the right hon. Gentleman was such a distinguished ornament, were much more minor than the changes that we are undertaking. That Government claimed that those changes would save £500 million over three years; our changes are much more radical and will save a great deal more.